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OPINION METER

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5
DAYS TO GO
BEFORE
Christmas

I N S I D E



Kim Jong Il, 69

Kim Jong Il, the mercurial and enigmatic North Korean leader whose iron rule and nuclear ambitions dominated world security fears for more than a decade, has died. He was 69.

Focus...Page 17



Box Office Dip

Sherlock Holmes is facing his worst enemy: declining crowds at theaters as this year's domestic movie attendance dips to the lowest in 16 years.

Life & Style...Page 20

Preliminary findings uncover multiple discrepancies. **PAGE 3**
Ex-CPA firefighter on probation arrested again. **PAGE 5**

Mandatory verification of aliens' federal legal work status pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A new Fitial administration-sponsored labor bill seeks to ban employers from hiring new employees on or after March 1, 2012 unless these employers are registered with, and use, a status verification system to check the "federal legal work status" of new employees to help prevent worker exploitation and promote fair competition among businesses.

» **New administration-sponsored bill requires use of E-Verify starting on March 1, 2012**

This early, employers and workers' groups are reviewing the intent and provisions of the 10-page House Bill 17-254, formally introduced yesterday afternoon by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and four other lawmakers.

This comes weeks after the introduction of a "comprehensive" CNMI labor bill that has been scored for its alleged "inhumane" provisions that

See ALIENS on Page 4

Fitial admin opposed to additional IRS taxation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While the Fitial administration has yet to get clarification from the Internal Revenue Service on the application of federal taxes among workers from the Philippines and Korea, it says it is opposed to additional taxation.

"The Commonwealth disagrees with a position to initiate additional

See FITIAL on Page 4

3 MONTHS AFTER FUND LAW SIGNED

JGO panel OKs repeal of derivative lawsuit act

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

It's a classic example of a CNMI law signed, only to have it repealed or proposed to be repealed just a few week or months later.

RELATED NEWS

Fund receives strong Senate support on repeal of derivative law. **PAGE 2**

The House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations recommended yesterday the passage of a bill repealing

See JGO on Page 4



Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), second from top left, looks on as Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), left, confers with him during a session yesterday afternoon, when the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations released its report recommending passage of a bill repealing a three-month-old law allowing NMI Retirement Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action. Also in photo are House clerk Linda Muna, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), and House legal counsel Joe Tajeron, right.



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Local

Fund receives strong Senate support on repeal of derivative act

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Sixto K. Igisomar expressed optimism that the beneficiaries derivative act will soon be repealed following the assurance of senators that they will rescind the law.

Igisomar described as "very strong" the support the Fund received from members of the Senate, which is expected to entertain a bill to repeal the law during the holiday break.

"We've met with them [senators] and we had a discussion.

We have an understanding of what is happening right now with the Fund. We got a very strong inclination of support from them and we're very optimistic that they will continue to move forward and entertain repealing the derivative law," said Igisomar.

It was last September when Public Law 17-51, or the beneficiaries derivative act, was signed despite the strong opposition from the Fund and trustees.

This law allows retirees to take legal action on behalf of trusts or the Fund when the trustees who manage them

refuse to bring such actions. Because of its passage, service providers of the Fund had terminated their contracts due to negative impact of the law. These include the investment consultant Wilshire Associates, actuarial consultant Buck Consultants, and majority of the money managers that handle the Fund's assets and portfolio.

Igisomar said that once repealed, the Fund is expecting the return of these key service providers because they have sent feelers of their willingness to serve the Fund anew.

From the initial \$80-million

negative financial impact of the law, Igisomar believes the adverse effect is greater now because of the opportunities lost in the investment market. He said there are two versions of the repealer bill, but the Fund is supportive of one bill pending the Senate's action.

As of Nov. 30, the Fund's estimated asset value is \$261 million of which \$55 million has already been transferred to CDARS program, or the certificate of deposit account registry service. It is the intent of the board to put all its portfolio into the program until a new investment adviser is named.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Run for the Cure/Walk for Life 2011



The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) continues to promote the 2012 Saipan Marathon in its primary market of Japan, participating in another marathon last month to make outreach to runners.



The MVA participated in the Run for the Cure/Walk for Life 2011 held at Hibiya Park

in Tokyo on Nov. 26. Over 1,200 runners from both Japan and other countries participated, and the MVA distributed Saipan Marathon brochures to participants.

The pink ribbon event was co-sponsored by Delta Air Lines. In support of the event fundraising efforts, the MVA donated a part of Saipan marathon tickets and Delta Air Lines donated two airline tickets to Saipan.



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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

FUND INTERNAL AUDIT

Preliminary findings uncover multiple discrepancies

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund internal auditing team has uncovered multiple discrepancies in the agency's operations, based on its preliminary findings reported to the board of trustees last Friday.

Lilian Pangelinan, head of the internal audit team, said most deficiencies were uncovered in areas of pension payouts (underpayment and overpayments), problems on disability cases, and discrepancies in overtime and compensatory payments, among others.

In reviewing the disability benefits, it found out that 13 of the 14 files it assessed are not in compliance with the necessary requirements and proper documentations such as insufficient physicians' report being submitted and accepting the alternative reports in determining the disability of surviving children.

Pangelinan added that no follow-ups were conducted to determine continuing eligibility to beneficiaries as well as insufficient proof if there is permanent disability.

Because the internal audit will cover all the Fund's operational files, it is expected that discrepancies and deficiencies like these will be uncovered until the completion of the entire audit activity.

Pangelinan also said that among the specific preliminary findings on the audit, there were a significant number of people who received overpayments for their overtime and therefore should be recouped by the Fund.

In this area, Pangelinan went through 130 files where overpayment and underpayments were discovered. According to Fund administrator Richard Villagomez, these cases went back 10 years ago which the Fund wants to address. Preliminary findings also revealed that some \$300,000 was discovered overpaid to two retirees based on the initial findings.

"The 130 files we reviewed are anywhere from 15 to 16 years old and these included retirees who initially retired in mid-1990s through 2000," said Pangelinan, adding that more files will be reviewed in this area.

According to Villagomez, the review of overtime and compensatory payments was the result of the Attorney General's opinion regarding its proper application. This is also one of the audit findings of OPA which the Fund is trying to address. This opinion

was issued in 2000. Pangelinan said the Fund, with its legal counsels, will strategize on how these overpayments and underpayments will be recouped.

According to Fund officials, the agency cannot immediately suspend or cut the pension of members who were found overpaid or underpaid because there is due process under the policy, which provides 30 days to appeal the Fund's decision.

The internal auditor also discovered that one member was wrongfully paid a refund of \$20,000 in the past without the necessary documentations—the notice of personnel action—that will prove the employee's separation from the government.

This case has now been referred to the Fund's counsel for review. The said employee had rescinded her resignation and received the refunds while continuing employment in the government.

Villagomez explained that the said case is an isolated situation and will soon be rectified. It was found that the Fund used the clearance sheet in basing its decision to issue the refund check to the employee.

Pangelinan also disclosed that a significant amount in travel advances will not be collected by the agency because of the statute of limitations. She is hopeful that this particular audit problem will be closed when OPA issues its audit tracking recommendations by the end of this month.

The Fund, meantime, commended the auditing team for resolving the issues involving the former executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Carlos Shoda, who had paid back the overpayments he received from the Fund. The civil action against the former official was also dismissed as of Friday.

Based on the preliminary findings, Pangelinan revealed that the Fund can potentially collect \$204,307 in underpayment of benefits and about \$70,000 in overpayments. Additionally, the agency can also collect some \$145,000 from the COLA of children with disability benefits.

Fund officials revealed that these discrepancies were not uncovered in the annual audit conducted by independent auditors because their audit are considered random in nature and only covers checks on the agency's financial statements.

According to Fund chair Sixto Igisomar, the internal audit was pushed since the leadership of former chair Juan Pan Guerrero.

"Considering the amount of

money that the Fund is dealing with, it was recommended to the board that we have to conduct an internal audit," said the chairman.

The chairman added that because the system in the Fund is not 100 percent accurate, the discovery of discrepancies and deficiencies are only natural. He cited some manual procedures that are still in existence in the current system. He assured though that the internal auditing team will continue the work until everything is checked, reviewed, and collected.





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House OKs transfer of Workers Compensation from Fund to Commerce

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 20-0, the House of Representatives passed yesterday a bill transferring the administrative functions of the Workers Compensation Commission from the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees to the Department of Commerce secretary.

The bill says transferring the administrative functions of WCC to Com-

merce is appropriate, because Commerce is a permitting and enforcement agency, to ensure compliance with the Workers' Compensation Law.

House Bill 17-14, House Draft 3 now goes to the Senate. The bill was introduced by Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) who, along with Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), made floor amendments yesterday.

By a vote of 19-1, the House passed Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) HB

17-196, which seeks to preserve and designate 2 hectares of public land on Tinian for the future site of a Tinian Veterans Cemetery. Only Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) voted "no" to the bill.

The House also passed Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (R-Saipan) HB 17-132, requiring vehicles hauling trailers or similar cargo to have red taillights for road safety. The bill passed by a vote of 20-0.

Also passed on a 20-0 vote was HB 17-232, permitting private employers

to exercise a voluntary veterans' preference in employment.

The House also reconsidered its passage during a previous session of Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, which authorizes the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents to revise its mission statement, because of constitutional issues.

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) referred the initiative back to

the Education Committee.

The House also House rejected by a 20-0 vote the latest Senate amendment to Rep. Stanley Torres' (Ind-Saipan) bill seeking to expunge criminal records after at least five years for felony convictions and after three years for misdemeanor, among other things.

The speaker formed a conference committee that will work with their Senate counterparts to come up with a version that's acceptable to conferees from both houses.

CUC wants new water, wastewater rate hike effective Feb. 14

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday made public its plan to increase existing water and waste water charges, which it wants to take effect starting Feb. 14, 2012, or 30 days after the scheduled public hearing.

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a public hearing on Jan. 20, 2012 where it will receive evidence, argument, discussion, and public comments on the petition. A decision is expected to be made in January whether it will approve or junk the proposed rate hike.

Based on the utilities firm petition before CPUC, CUC's water and wastewater divisions experienced a total cost of service of \$29.9 million in 2010 of which \$10 million was for capital outlays that were funded primarily through grants and considered non-rate revenue

line item. This means that CUC has to recover \$19.5 million to sustain the overall cost.

In FY 2012, CUC's cost of service was lower—at a total of \$22.5 million. However, CUC received far fewer grant funds and as a result, CUC's revenue requirement to be raised from rates is \$17.1 million.

It added that in order to recover its full costs of service, it requires rate relief in its water and wastewater operations.

Once approved by the commission, the new rates will bring an immediate 12 percent to 56 percent increase in the monthly billing of residential ratepayers. The recommended rate plan does not include the unmetered and flat rate customers because CUC intends to phase them out once the metering program is completed.

The proposal was result of four elements that are beyond the control of

the utilities firm: power cost increases, stipulated order requirements, declining customer base, and operating cost increases.

Besides proposing new rates for water and wastewater, CUC also recommends to establish several new customer classes to gain better understanding of the usage patterns of CUC's customers and to ensure that eventually each unique customer class pays its own cost of service. It proposed the creation of residential, multi-family, commercial, CUC, government, and public schools classes.

A 50-percent increase on the current tariff for sewer dumping charges was also being sought by CUC. The \$25 fee was established many years ago for each dump of 500-1,000 gallons of concentrated sewage into CUC's wastewater system. CUC said this fee does not cover both the operational and administration cost of CUC.

Half of Aging congregates to join Christmas gift exchange

Only half of the congregates at the Aging Center will be taking part in their Christmas exchange gift, according to Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza.

As she addressed the congregates in yesterday's meeting, Sorroza said only 33 of about 70 *man'amko* expressed interest in participating in the annual holiday activity.

When asked for their reason why they won't join the activity, several of the *man'amko* gave varied reasons, from having medical appointments to just not wanting to participate.

Sorroza told the congregates, "It's not just about giving and receiving. It's about unity because majority of the group already voted to do this."

After appealing to her fellow *man'amko*, Sorroza was able to get seven more congregates to join the exchange gift which will take place at the center on Dec. 22.

"It would be nice to share with the other *man'amko* the spirit of Christmas through this activity," added Sorroza. (Clarissa V. David)

ALIENS

From Page 1

include allowing deductions of up to 25 percent from alien workers' wages and publications of their names in the newspapers for past due medical bills.

A three-page section-by-section analysis of H.B. 17-254 says the legislation calls for "mandatory use of E-Verify" in the CNMI.

The federal government has operated E-Verify, a legal work status verification system, since 2007. It is intended to spot aliens who have no legal work authorization and keep them from being employed in the U.S.

The E-Verify system has an online tutorial, easy registration, and simple online verification information forms. But the verification system is voluntary unless a state requires its use by law or executive order, the bill's analysis says.

"Due to the federal implementation of PL 110-229, the federalization of immigration law, there are many thousands of unemployed aliens in the Commonwealth, many of whom do not have legal work status. Employers who hire aliens with no work authorization often exploit the aliens, do not pay taxes as legitimate businesses do, and compete unfairly with legitimate businesses that hire U.S. citizens and legal aliens," HB 17-254's analysis says.

The bill would make it unlawful for any private sector employer to hire

anyone other than a U.S. worker or an alien who holds a current and valid federal work authorization as confirmed by a status verification system.

Any employer who employs a person without valid federal work authorization shall be subject to forfeiture of the employer's business license for one year to five years, and a civil fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000.

Under the bill, it shall also be a felony for an alien to accept or perform employment for compensation knowing or in reckless disregard that the person has no current valid federal work authorization during the period in which the employment occurred. Those convicted are subject to imprisonment for one to five years, a fine of \$1,000 to \$5,000 or both.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said they would like to get clarification whether E-Verify recognizes the federal Commonwealth-only worker status or CW status unique to the CNMI during the transition period ending on Dec. 31, 2014, as well as parole or parole-in-place that many foreigners have been able to secure from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Syed, when asked for comment on the new labor bill, said the United Workers Movement-NMI does not support any illegal employment.

"Because of this, we don't see anything wrong with verifying the status of anyone. But we just want to make

sure that CW status or parole status are also recognized status under the federal verification system. If not, there's going to be a problem with a lot of the foreign workers here," Syed told *Saipan Tribune*.

Syed, however, said there are other provisions of the bill that may need to be further reviewed, including the part wherein it says "it shall be a rebuttable presumption that a defendant who remains in the Commonwealth unlawfully is at risk of flight."

The analysis of the bill says the proposed "new employee" requirement would come into effect in about 90 days, although the bill itself provides a March 1, 2012 starting date.

But this provision is made retroactive to Nov. 21, 2009 in order to pick up the aliens hired while the federal government was trying to get their worker regulations out.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, separately said the Chamber is now reviewing this new labor bill and will be discussing it in today's board meeting.

The Chamber has also been preparing comments on a previously introduced labor bill, HB 17-234.

Under HB 17-234, employers are no longer required to pay for their alien workers' medical expenses.

But the House, during yesterday's session, didn't act on this bill, introduced by Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), Cabrera, and other members.

JGO

From Page 1

Public Law 17-51 which allows NMI Retirement Fund beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the pension program if the board refuses to bring such legal action.

PL 17-51 was enacted in early September.

The JGO Committee, in recommending the passage of House Bill 17-220 in its current form, said the enactment of PL 17-51 has "detrimentally affected the Retirement Fund and its ability to fulfill its statutory mandate."

"PL 17-51 expanded the liability risk for any person or entity dealing with the Fund to such an extent that service providers that were under contract prior to the enactment of PL 17-51 have terminated their agreements with the Fund," the report says.

The committee, chaired by Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), said with the recent loss of service providers—such as money managers—the Fund cannot afford the additional cost of doing business that resulted from the enactment of PL 17-51, and that the board of trustees cannot meet its fiduciary duty to the Fund, absent sound advice.

"However, the Committee has agreed that the enactment of this legislation should not be retroactive and therefore will not have any bearings on the current lawsuit against the Retirement Fund," the committee report adds.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), author of the repealer bill, said he hopes that his colleagues

FITIAL

From Page 1

taxation and would like to identify either appeal procedures or methods to resolve this dispute short of court proceeding," press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Demapan said as of yesterday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has yet to receive a response from IRS, following his letter to IRS chief counsel William J. Wilkins seeking clarification on an unofficial, redacted copy of an Oct. 5 communication from the IRS stating that Filipino workers are no longer exempted from paying Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes because of the implementation of federal immigration in the CNMI.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Demapan said the governor's letter is part of his effort to prevent tax increases from the U.S.

"The administration is still awaiting a response from the IRS at this time. Until such time, the CNMI is not in a position to advise employers not to implement deductions," said Demapan.

Many private sector employers with Filipino and Korean workers

will support passage of HB 17-220.

The conference committee bill that became law cleared the House by a vote of 15-4. The only four who didn't agree on the passage of the derivative bill were Camacho, Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), and Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan). Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) was off-island at the time.

When asked yesterday, Villagomez said he's still thinking whether to vote "yes" or "no" on the repealer bill.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said yesterday he will vote "yes" on the repealer bill. Yumul supported the bill that became the derivative lawsuit law.

Just like Yumul, Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said he will also support the repealer bill, after supporting the passage of the derivative bill. Palacios said he, along with other members, were made to believe that passage of the derivative lawsuit bill was favorable to the Fund and the Fitial administration.

"I think we all learned our lessons. I am now supporting a repeal of this law. The intent is to protect the Retirement Fund," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) separately said they're also looking to see what the Senate will do with its own version of a bill also repealing the derivative lawsuit act. The Senate will hold a session on Wednesday.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), co-author of the Senate repealer bill, had said there is no reason why the derivative lawsuit law should remain when the Fund is already suing Merrill Lynch.

are on a wait-and-see mode, before deducting FICA taxes from their employees' wages.

Demapan said the governor's office has requested clarification from IRS on three issues. These include:

1. Whether a final decision has been made to begin taxation of Philippine and Korean nationals in the CNMI;

2. If it has been decided to tax Philippine and Korean nationals, who made this decision and when do they propose to implement?

3. The CNMI disagrees with a position to initiate additional taxation and would like to identify either appeal procedures or methods to resolve this dispute short of court proceeding.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan has also sought clarification on the FICA taxation among previously exempt workers, at a time when the economy is at its worst.

The government and the business community said requiring employees and employers to pay FICA taxes is an added cost during these times when businesses barely earn revenue.

A minimum wage earner in the CNMI pays over \$45 in FICA taxes a month. Their employers' share is almost \$62 a month.

US govt seeks to recover \$1.2M in FICA refund check allegedly erroneously issued

The U.S. government has filed a counterclaim against a defunct garment manufacturer to recover \$1.2 million in a tax refund check that the Internal Revenue Service allegedly erroneously issued to the factory in 2009.

The U.S. government, through the U.S. Department of Justice's Tax Division, asserted that Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp. is indebted to the government in the amount of \$1,181,265.71 plus interest as provided by law from the date of the erroneous refund on Dec. 28, 2009.

In the U.S. government's counterclaim against Concorde filed on Saturday, DOJ asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to also award the U.S. its court costs.

DOJ said the refund check was erroneous, because, among other things, the claim for refund was without legal basis and should not have been allowed.

The U.S., through IRS, collected Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) tax in the CNMI on employers and "wages" of employees for "employment."

DOJ said that, in 2008, Concorde filed its refund claim for FICA taxes for the quarters ending March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006, Sept. 30, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2006.

DOJ said in the claims for refund, Concorde stated "employer erroneously paid payroll taxes for some of its employees that are exempt from payroll taxes" because its temporary contract workers who worked lawfully in the CNMI were not subject to FICA taxes and therefore Concorde was entitled to a refund."

Concorde added that "total

amount of improper payroll taxes paid equals \$964,967.58."

DOJ said IRS then erroneously issued to Concorde a refund check in the amount of \$1,181,265.71 (which included interest).

In July 2011, Concorde and numerous Chinese nationals formerly employed by Concorde and its affiliated companies, filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government to recover wrongfully assessed FICA taxes that were erroneously paid to the U.S. for tax years 2004 to 2007.

The plaintiffs, through counsels Steven P. Pixley and Colin M. Thompson, said that, on Dec. 15, 2008, Concorde received \$1,157,359.71 representing a partial refund of FICA taxes.

Pixley and Thompson said the U.S. commenced collection proceedings against Concorde to recover this refund after April 15, 2010, including the implementation of illegal levy proceedings.

"Notwithstanding the partial FICA refund payment, the Defendant (U.S.) has not issued a formal denial relating to the plaintiffs' refund claims," the lawyers said.

The lawyers asserted that the imposition of FICA tax liability on employees and employers in the CNMI is without legal authority and that the FICA tax collected from plaintiffs should be refunded.

Last year, 12 other former garment factories and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino also sued the U.S. government to recover allegedly wrongfully assessed Social Security and Medicare taxes (FICA) that were erroneously paid between 2002 to 2007. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Ex-CPA firefighter on probation arrested again

A former Commonwealth Ports Authority firefighter who is still on probation for assaulting his former girlfriend, was arrested again on Friday—this time for allegedly turning violent, pushing his brother, and challenging him to a fight.

Giovanni Camacho Sablan, 23, was set to appear yesterday afternoon in Superior Court on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

A \$1,250 cash bail was initially imposed for Sablan's temporary release.

Sablan, a mixed martial arts fighter, is also known as "The Fighter" and "Palaksi" or "Palaxi."

Detective Patrick P. Sablan said that, on Friday at 8:35am

a police officer was sent to San Antonio after Giovanni Sablan's mother called for police's assistance.

The detective said the mother informed the officer that her son, Giovanni Sablan, became violent at their residence so she got scared and took away the children who were crying.

When the officer arrived at the house, Giovanni Sablan was packing some clothes and told his mother he was getting out of the house if that's what she wanted.

The firefighter walked out from the house, showed his mother his middle finger and said a profanity at her.

The mother told the officer that they were having breakfast when Giovanni Sablan

asked to use the car, but his brother explained he needed the vehicle to fix some papers for his Northern Marianas College classes.

Giovanni Sablan got mad and started kicking the chairs and baby bicycle. He then pushed his brother on the chest and challenged him to a fight.

The defendant then started yelling and cussing, prompting his mother to leave the house with the children. The mother then called the police.

Police arrested the defendant at 9:55am that same day.

Last October, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos slapped a 58-day jail term on Giovanni Sablan for assaulting his former girlfriend in the parking lot of Aquarius

Hotel in Chalan Kanoa.

Inos sentenced the defendant to a total of one year and six months, all suspended except for 58 days, for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Inos gave the 23-year-old defendant credit for the 58 days he already served in jail.

Inos placed the defendant on supervised probation for two years and ordered him to pay a \$200 fine, \$200 probation fee, and \$25 court assessment fee.

Inos required Sablan to complete, among other things, a second counseling session for anger management at the Community Guidance Center and undergo any recommended course of counseling or treatment. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

UNWRAP the possibilities

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The Galaxy Tab 10.1 is a complete overhaul compared to the original 7 inch Galaxy Tab. The new 10.1 offers a larger 10.1 inch Hi-res touch screen display, pre-loaded with Android 3.1 Honeycomb OS, and claims to be the thinnest tablet in the world!



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This gaming phone sports dedicated gaming controls on a slide-out pad, a large screen, and a 2nd-generation Snapdragon processor. Other key features include 5-megapixel camera, front-facing camera, 3.5mm audio jack, mobile Wi-Fi hotspot, full browser with Adobe Flash, memory card slot, DLNA wireless media streaming.



CASIO G'zOne COMMANDO™
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This Android 2.2 FROYO CDMA smartphone is notable for its rugged, waterproof design. Other key features include compass, thermometer, pedometer, a high-resolution touch display, and extra-loud speaker. Rounding out the features are a 5-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi with mobile hotspot, EVDO 3G data, and memory card slot.



SANYO ZIO™
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INCLUDES \$10 LOAD

This Android smartphone is notable for its large, high-resolution display and 3G EVDO data. Other features include 3-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi, accelerometer, 3.5mm headphone jack, and memory card slot.



Samsung Showcase
\$199⁺

Part of Samsung's Galaxy S series, this high-end Android smartphone sports a huge 4-inch OLED display, fast 1 GHz processor, and 5-megapixel camera with LED flash and video capture. Other features include Bluetooth 2.0, Wi-Fi with DLNA streaming, and a 3.5mm audio jack.



htc EVO™ 3D
\$299⁺

This update to the EVO 4G adds 3D screen and camera, including video, plus a faster 3rd-generation dual-core Snapdragon processor. Other features include Android 2.3, HTC's Sense interface, a huge, high-resolution display, and HD video output to TV. Other features include Wi-Fi, memory card slot, and 3.5mm audio jack. The EVO 3D is surely a phone that will blow away the competition!

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Lack of staff, hours impede Zoning Office

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lack of enforcers at the Zoning Office is “really hurting” the implementation of their programs and enforcement of regulations, according to acting administrator Therese T. Ogumoro.

Ogumoro said in an interview that the lack of enforcers is compounded by the limited hours that the enforcer has to be in the field and do inspections and enforcement.

She said their only enforcer only spends about two hours of field work, posing a big challenge for the implementation of public nuisance and other zoning regulations.

According to Ogumoro, their office hopes to hire one more enforcer which is why they are

trying to work on their budget so they can proceed to hire additional staff.

“We can’t work on hiring if we don’t have the required funding,” Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of Nov. 30, Ogumoro disclosed that they have issued a total of 30 violation notices to households and mostly busi-

nesses on Saipan that do not comply with the requirements of the Public Nuisance and Signs under the zoning law.

Under the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, public nuisance is defined as “an unreasonable interference with a right common to the general public.” It “does not change its character by reason of its location on private or

public property, occupied or unoccupied property.”

While Zoning Office has yet to identify the number of those who complied with the notices and those who will have to pay penalties, Ogumoro noted that the compliance percentage “was very high.”

The acting administrator said that with the implementation of

the public nuisance regulation, the Zoning Office is also set to remove its junk car removal program efforts, particularly in Garapan area and major thoroughfares.

According to Ogumoro, the junk car removal program was discontinued due to several issues, including lack of working equipment and management changes in the Saipan Triple Star recycling company, which is one of Zoning’s partners in the program together with Er-

icco Enterprises and the Saipan Mayor’s Office.

“It’s just a matter of reactivating our connection and joint efforts. We hope it’s going to continue given the implementation of public nuisance requirements,” she said.

Ogumoro urged businesses and individuals to comply with zoning regulations as they plan to strengthen their implementation efforts and be out in the field this holiday season.

Junior Achievement aims to re-establish local presence

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A worldwide non-profit organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy through hands-on programs is trying to re-establish its presence in the Commonwealth by seeking community partners.

Junior Achievement, which provides educational programs for youth to gain the knowledge and skills they need to plan for their future and make smart academic and economic choices, is partnering with the CNMI Public School System as it plans to launch early next year the JA

Company Program.

The program is a high school, after-school program scheduled to run from mid-January through mid-April 2012 and aims to provide student participants the opportunity to meet and formulate a real business which they will run for 12 weeks.

JA’s Carline B. Sablan said they are looking for business volunteers from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota who will teach prepared lessons for the program.

“With the guidance of business volunteers, students form a company, sell shares to capitalize it, choose a product or service, elect company officers/executives, formulate a business plan, produce a product or carry out a service and

sell it. At the end of the program period, the company is liquidated,” said Sablan.

Sablan said materials and a volunteer training, set on Jan. 7, will be provided by JA so they are looking at finalizing the list of participating businesses by the end of the year.

While the program used to have a one-company-sponsor-per-student policy, Sablan noted in an interview that they understand the tough economic climate, prompting them to accept two or more companies to co-sponsor one student.

Sablan disclosed that they already have the commitment of the Rotary Club of Saipan, which will lead the meetings for participants from Marianas

High School. Meetings are held once a week and would last up to two hours.

Sablan, who is the economic development analyst for the Commonwealth Development Authority, said the program is “a great opportunity for students to get their feet wet” in regards to entrepreneurship.

Herself a product of the program, Sablan said they are looking for students who are motivated, have a desire to learn, and can commit to the program’s three-week schedule.

According to Sablan, they are

targeting about 24 student participants per public high school. The CNMI has three public high schools on Saipan, and one each on Tinian and Rota.

Recruitment of student participants began last Dec. 14 and will conclude on Jan. 10, 2012.

Sablan urged businesses on island to take part in the JA Company Program and provide volunteers “to make a positive impact on our youth.”

To participate in the program or for more information, contact Sablan at 234-6245 ext. 314 or econ-dev@cda.gov.mp or Frances Ulloa of PSS at 237-3002 or frances.ulloa@cnmipss.org.

Second suspect in alleged beating of man outside Garapan bar arrested

Police served on Saturday an arrest warrant to the second suspect in the beating of a man and damaging his vehicle outside a bar in Garapan in the early morning hours of Dec. 1.

Bradley DLR. Palacios, 20, was arrested in San Antonio/Afetnas on charges of assault, assault and battery, criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, and minor consuming alcohol.

At yesterday’s hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for the defendant’s temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on Dec. 29 at 9am.

Police served the arrest warrant to Palacios’ co-defendant Kevin I. Esteves, 21, on Thursday night in Garapan on the same charges.

During Friday’s hearing, associate judge David Wiseman imposed a \$500 cash bail on Esteves.

Palacios and Esteves were arrested shortly after the incident, but were later released as police then conducted further investigation.

Police said the victim, John Hamilton, sustained a swollen and bruised right eye and lip. The driver’s side window of Hamilton’s Nissan pickup truck was damaged.

Police said preliminary investigation showed that Esteves and Palacios beat up Hamilton outside Ace Pool Bar after he refused to shake hands with Esteves.

The victim later managed to run and hide in the same building. The suspects, however, then threw rocks at Hamilton’s truck, shattering a window, police said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,
Plaintiff,

vs.

WILLIAM DLG. ANGUI
and JESSIE A. ANGUI,
Defendants.

THIRD NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 23rd day of August, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of January, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 1067, located in Kagman III, Saipan, containing an area of 841 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 10 dated December 1, 1993 and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 93-4178 on December 3, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer.

Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids.

Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.

4. Change of Terms.

Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty.

Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of November, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-025
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, Third Floor, Office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_doc_multipurpose@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., Local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Proc. & Supply

/s/ Thelma B. Inos
Director, Energy Div.

/s/ Michael J. Ada
CNMI ARRA State Lead

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-026
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR VARIOUS BUILDINGS ON TINIAN AND ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_tinian@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Proc. & Supply

/s/ Thelma B. Inos
Director, Energy Div.

/s/ Michael J. Ada
CNMI ARRA State Lead

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-027
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR VARIOUS OFFICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, Third Floor, office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_dof@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Proc. & Supply

/s/ Thelma B. Inos
Director, Energy Div.

/s/ Michael J. Ada
CNMI ARRA State Lead

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-028
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR VARIOUS FIRE STATIONS ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_fire@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Proc. & Supply

/s/ Thelma B. Inos
Director, Energy Div.

/s/ Michael J. Ada
CNMI ARRA State Lead

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
AGENDA

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular meeting on Wednesday, December 21, 2011 at 5:30pm, Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Quorum

4. Adoption of Agenda

5. Adoption of Minutes:
a. November 29, 2011

II. Public Comments

Communications

1. From the State Board of Education

2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports

1. Managers

2. Director

3. Human Resource Officer

4. Finance Director

5. Center Representatives

V. Old Business

1. SY 2011-2012 Community Assessment

VI. New Business

1. PRAXIS I test for Head Start Staff

2. Fall 2011 Child Outcome Report

3. CNMI Head Start Program Triennial Review

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Executive Session

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Naydine Aguon at (670) 664-3751; several days notice is required.

/s/ Vinnie Sablan
Chairperson

1 Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Suwaso: COP in good standing with 15-year permit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coral Ocean Point Hotel and Golf Course is in good standing with its 15-year permit, according to attorney Vincent Torres

who is chairman of COP owner, Suwaso Corp.

In his response yesterday to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiries, Torres described as false the news article (not in the *Saipan Tribune*) that the Department of Public Lands' 120-day deadline given to Suwaso to submit its financial status was up last Dec. 11.

Torres clarified that the deadline is 240 days, but that this deadline is not an issue anymore because they already submitted all the requirements to DPL.

With respect to the report that Philip Mendiola-Long had recently resigned as board secretary of Suwaso Corp., the chairman said the resignation has no impact on COP's hotel and golf course business.

NMC faculty senate president Griffin retires

Northern Marianas College business department chair and the institution's senate faculty president Dr. John Griffin has retired after two years of working for the college.

He told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his retirement will take effect on Feb. 17. Griffin said his family will relocate to San Diego.

He, however, promised to come back to the islands for occasional visits in the future.

Griffin said John Cook will serve as acting faculty senate president until a new leader is elected next month.

Griffin became the business

He also pointed out that they have absolutely no problem with their investors in China pertaining to COP's shares.

"This is not any issue at all," said the lawyer.

As to the recent resignation of COP's longtime comptroller Matti David, Torres said Matti resigned because she is relocating to the U.S. mainland to reunite with her two daughters.

Torres said Yusuke Fumoto, his partner in the COP, is here on Saipan for 10 days and came to participate in COP staff's Christmas party held last Saturday.

"COP's business is very much alive and more and more customers are coming in," he added.

The new Suwaso owners had promised to settle the previous

owners' debts to the CNMI government of almost \$1 million, and with other CNMI private and public agencies using an immediate infusion of \$7 million.

A group led by Cheong Pui Ng, a former business partner of the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom, has reiterated its intent to invest over \$11 million in COP.

Pacific Investment and Development Corp. president Ng previously offered to invest over \$10 million in the hotel but is now promising an additional \$1 million to rehabilitate COP.

Last Dec. 12, Ng resubmitted to DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta of its proposal for a 25-year lease with option to lease up to 40 years for the management and operation of COP.

graduate and graduate teaching experience in such places as Japan, Puerto Rico, Florida, Cuba, and the Marianas.

Griffin received a bachelor degree in General Studies in Business from the University of Maryland, a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Pepperdine University in Malibu, a Master of Public Administration and a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from Troy State University in Alabama, and a Doctorate of Business Administration from University of Sarasota in Florida.

(Moneth G. Deposa)

Ng is president of Bang Plee Construction Limited that built Hillblom's Dalat Hotel and Golf Course in Vietnam in 1994. He owns several businesses on the island.

Ng said they have heard that the extension given by DPL to the current lessee of COP has already lapsed without them complying with the terms and conditions of the extension.

"With this circumstance, our party would like to inform you that we are still interested in leasing out the property," Ng said in the letter.

COP is located on a 735,023 square meter property at Aginagan Point, Saipan. Under the law, any lease and extension of lease of public land consisting of more than five hectares requires legislative approval.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Belated happy birthday mommy Esperanza Gayac, who turned 83 on Dec. 19. We love you! Shout out coming out from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to Maria Pangelinan Sablan. May God bless you and many more birthdays to come. Enjoy your special day and most especially we love you. Greeting from your husband, Leslie, A.J., R.J., Jo, Victoria, Enzo, Honey, Keoni, Randall, Mona, the Pangelinans, the Sablans, and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **December 20**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **December 20**.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

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TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm
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CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 2012 Health Insurance Rates

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Couple	STAYWELL Aetna High Option Aetna Low Option StayWell Annual savings = \$1,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 750	\$130.00 \$206.90 \$191.39	\$182.00 No Dental Plan No Dental Plan
Family	STAYWELL Aetna High Option Aetna Low Option StayWell Annual savings = \$2,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 1,236	\$208.00 \$322.96 \$298.78	\$265.00 No Dental Plan No Dental Plan

STAYWELL BENEFITS

Member Refund Program
Common Law Spouses Included
*100% coverage for off-island in-patient care

Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:
Single = \$ 1,500; Family = \$4,500

*Some conditions apply

AETNA BENEFITS

No Refund Program
Common Law Spouses Covered at Higher Rates
70 – 80% coverage for off-island inpatient care

Out of Pocket Annual Maximums:
High Option: Single = \$ 4,000; family = \$ 12,000
Low Option: Single = \$ 10,000; family = \$ 30,000

STAYWELL Contact Information Phone: 323-4260/61/62 | Fax: 323-4263 | Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com | Flame Tree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

Baby girl from Tinian wins Lollipops promotion

»Family decides to donate Sanrio bike to girl in 'very critical medical need'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A baby girl got the perfect gift for her ninth-month birthday Saturday after winning the coveted 20-inch pink Sanrio bike at the Lollipops raffle draw.

Kate K. Manglona, daughter of Janet King and Joshua Manglona of Tinian, was presented with her grand prize for her winning ticket numbers 630629 at the Lollipops store in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

"We didn't expect to win but we're glad we did," said King in an interview.

King said she always goes to Lollipops to shop for her baby's needs, from clothing to educational toys. "It's a very good place to shop."

According to King, Kate has also received a lot of Sanrio items as gifts from family and friends.

Kate's win, King said, made them feel very blessed that they decided as a family to donate the Sanrio bike to a young girl from Tinian "with a very critical medical need" to be identified with the help of the Tinian Health Center.

"I think Kate will be very happy about that. It's never too early to teach her about being generous," said the first-time



Tinian's proud parents Janet King and Joshua Manglona hold their 9-month-old daughter Kate as she gets on the 20-inch Sanrio girl's bike, her prize for winning the Lollipops raffle promotion, which was presented to the family yesterday afternoon. The family decided to donate the bike to a young girl from Tinian with "very critical medical need."

mom, adding that they will take care of the expenses to be incurred in shipping the bike to the recipient on Tinian.

Manglona, who arrived from Missouri in time for Kate's birthday, also believes that his daughter agrees with their decision to donate the bike to an older child.

"She has a long way to go and it would be very nice to make someone happy this Christmas," he said.

Asked for their message to the recipient of the bike, Man-

glona said, "Enjoy it and a very happy and merry Christmas to you from Katie and Santa."

Lollipops president Penelope Hofschneider said the raffle promotion was their way of saying thank you to their patrons.

"It was actually a very special event because Sanrio shipped it to us completely by surprise. They shipped it to us to say thank you for doing over 10 years of business with them and suggested that we raffle it off to our customers so we can do something special for them,"

she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hofschneider said Lollipops and Girl Talk shoppers had the chance to earn one raffle coupon for every \$10 purchase during the promo period which ran from November to early December.

"Our customers were very enthusiastic and excited to win the Sanrio bike which came at a perfect time because of the holidays, which is probably why we got a great response for the promo," she said.

In fact, dozens of customers kept calling the store when December came to ask if they won the raffle, revealed Hofschneider.

The president said they also gave out consolation prizes to four other customers, namely Seon N. Jeon, who won a Sanrio holograph poster and holiday ornaments for a 7-year-old girl; Lyzandra Barcinas, who won a 10-pack Hot Wheels for a 6-year-old boy; Kartina Lynn Manglona, who won an Elmo bay for a 3-year-old boy; and Liberty Manglona, who won Bay Blades for an 8-year-old boy.

"Congratulations to all the winners. Happy holidays to all of our customers and we wish them a very blessed and safe holiday season," added Hofschneider.

Supreme Court affirms Minto's conviction

The CNMI Supreme Court last Friday issued a unanimous decision in *Commonwealth v. Minto*, affirming Minto's convictions for conspiracy and solicitation to commit marriage fraud.

The case originated in March 2007 after Minto recruited a United States citizen to marry an illegal alien for money. After the couple submitted a marriage application, another participant to the relevant events reported the attempted marriage to law enforcement.

After an investigation, Minto was charged for his participation. In August 2008, a jury found Minto guilty of one count

each of conspiracy to commit marriage fraud and solicitation of marriage fraud. Minto appealed his convictions. He argued that: (1) evidence was insufficient for the jury to find him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt; (2) the federal takeover of immigration preempted the Commonwealth marriage fraud statute at issue; (3) Commonwealth immigration statutes were unconstitutional; and (4) it was legally impossible for him to solicit marriage fraud.

The Supreme Court affirmed Minto's convictions on appeal. First, the court held that evidence presented to the jury was

sufficient to satisfy the elements of conspiracy and solicitation to commit marriage fraud because the evidence showed that Minto had agreed to conspire with others to commit marriage fraud; Minto knew his conduct was unlawful, and that the groom would have received an immigration benefit had he married a United States citizen. Second, the Supreme Court held that the CNMI marriage fraud statutes underlying Minto's convictions were not affected by federalization of local immigration law because Minto was convicted and final judgment entered against him more than a year

before federal immigration law became law in the Commonwealth. Third, the CNMI marriage fraud statutes were constitutional as applied to Minto. Lastly, the court held that it was legally possible for Minto to solicit a United States citizen to commit marriage fraud because the Legislature clearly intended the CNMI marriage fraud statute to apply to all persons who marry for fraudulent purposes, not just aliens.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Commonwealth v. Minto*, 2011 MP 14, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_11.htm. (PR)

DPS releases DUI/sobriety checkpoints schedule

The Department of Public Safety's Police Division and Traffic Investigations Unit will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on the dates and time listed below:

FRIDAY, DEC. 23, 2011

■ 7pm to 8:15pm: Beach Road Susupe, in front of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Building.

■ 9:30pm to 10:45pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico by the U.S. Army Reserve Center.

■ 11:30pm to 12:45am: Beach Road, Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24, 2011

■ 6pm to 7:15pm: Beach Road, Chalan Piao, in front of

Hopwood Jr. High School.

■ 8:30pm to 9:45pm: Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya, by the CUC Waterloo Station.

■ 1:30pm to 11:45pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, adjacent to the CRM Office.

■ 1am to 2:15am: Beach Road, Susupe, in front of the Minatchom Atdao.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29, 2011

■ 7pm to 8:15pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico, by the U.S. Army Reserve Center.

■ 9:30pm to 10:45am: Beach Road, Garapan, across from Bank Pacific.

■ 11:30pm to 12:45am: Beach Road, Susupe, in front of Minatchom Atdao.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30, 2011

■ 7pm to 8:15pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, in front of Han's Corporation.

■ 9:30pm to 10:45pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Chalan Kiya, by the CUC Waterloo Station.

■ 11:30pm to 12:45am: Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau, adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31, 2011

■ 6pm to 7:15pm, Beach Road, Susupe, in front of Minatchom Atdao.

■ 8:30pm to 9:45pm: Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, in front of IT&E.

■ 10:30pm to 11:45pm: Beach Road Chalan Lau Lau,

adjacent to Dr. Benusto Kaipat's residence.

■ 1am to 2:15am: Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, adjacent to CRM Office.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, traffic investigators and highway patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining device, seatbelts or car seats. (DPS)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 20, 2000

DOF insists compromise on unpaid CUC bills

Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen took a hard-line stance yesterday on the government's tussle with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over its unpaid billings, saying both sides must compromise to resolve the long-standing issue. She was quick to remind CUC officials that the government has been helping the utility agency overcome financial difficulties by waiving the excise tax on fuel which costs the CNMI coffers at least \$3 million every year. "The CUC board should take into consideration the contributions made by the government, such as funding for [capital improvement projects]," Ms. Nielsen told reporters in an interview after attending the confirmation hearing of Public Auditor Mike S. Sablan at the Senate.

Peter wants debts with health care providers settled

The chair of the House Committee on Health and Welfare will only support the hiring of Hawaii Management Alliance Association (HMAA) unless the Government Health Insurance and the Department of Public Health settles the debt with the two private health providers in Hawaii. Rep. Malua Peter has expressed concern on the delay in payment of Straub Clinic & Hospital and Queens Medical Center, making it difficult for members of the government health insurance to seek medical treatment in these institutions. Representatives from the Office of Management and Budget, Departments of Finance and Public Health met with Rep. Peter last week to discuss ways on how to settle the debt with the health providers as soon as possible before it turns into a medical disaster for the CNMI.

Dec. 20, 2001

NMHC signs home financing deal with HSBC

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Ltd. yesterday signed a residential financing agreement, as part of efforts to make home ownership a possibility even among low-income families. Under the Collaboration Guaranty Resident Loans to Qualified Borrowers agreement, NMHC Board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said that HSBC will be providing guaranteed loans to borrowers for purposes of constructing homes, home improvements, and purchasing single family residential homes. Tenorio said that the agreement will enable the NMHC to further enhance residential loan assistance to borrowers. He added that the NMHC is still inundated with residential loan applications as the demands for residential financing exceeded the agency's supply of available funding.

Atalig: Power-sharing a personal decision

Stung by pointed-albeit mild-criticism over his statements relating to a proposed power-sharing scheme in 13th Senate leadership, Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig clarified that his decision to relinquish one of his chairmanships is a personal decision that the leadership had allowed him to make. "It's not that I am in a position to give out committee chairmanships. It's just that, as was mentioned before by Sen. [Joaquin G.] Adriano, those who are handling two committee chairmanships may relinquish one of their committee if they want to do so and that's what I did," Atalig said. Atalig said he intends to give up his chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Health, Education and Welfare Programs, in favor of Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez. This leaves him with the chairmanship of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs.

Dec. 20, 2002

Senate OKs \$31K for Dandan school

The Legislature has approved an appropriation bill that would set aside funds for the purchase of collateral equipment for Dandan Elementary School. The Senate sealed its approval to House Bill 13-65—which reappropriates some \$31,458 to the precinct I school—during a session Wednesday. The House of Representatives passed the measure on March 7, 2002. The bill was introduced to assist the public school cope with the costs of obtaining maintenance and other school supplies, according to the bill's proponent, Vice Speaker Manuel A. Tenorio.

Tinian agricultural homestead project is moving forward

The Marianas Public Land Authority's progress on the expansion and development of agricultural homesteads on Tinian has recently advanced. The agency has indicated that it is currently in the project's initial phase, which involves conducting a perimeter and topographical survey of the project site at Marpo Valley on Tinian. The surveys will allow the MPLA to exclude areas that are physically not conducive for agricultural activities. "We are pleased that this project is aggressively progressing," said Manny Villagomez, vice chairman of the MPLA Board of Directors. "I have asked the staff to put a high priority on this so that we can accommodate many of the pending applicants on Tinian."

SHRM-CNMI presents 'HR: Navigating Through Change'

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter is pleased to announce its annual conference, and this year's theme is "HR: Navigating Through Change."

The conference is bringing together a variety of speakers to give insight to prepare for the changes ahead of us. The purpose of the conference is to address the areas all businesses and HR professionals face with the changing workforce the CNMI will be going through since the implementation of the Federal Immigration Regulations.

The conference will be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday, Dec. 22, from 8am to 3pm.

The conference will provide

attendees the valuable opportunity to:

- Learn about how USERRA affects you as an employer for those employees in the U.S. Military;

- Learn how your company can take advantage of employment incentives and still save the company money with the Workforce Investment Agency;

- Find out how you can avoid liability when sending out e-mails;

- Find out how to encourage your working adults to get a higher degree of education so they can be better skilled at their jobs;

- Learn how to prepare yourself and your company with all the recent changes to immigration laws; and

- Ask questions and get answers from each of the presenters.

Speakers will include ESGR State Chair for the Guam/CNMI State Committee David J. Sablan; Edith DeLeon Guerrero, Workforce Investment Agency Executive Director; Michael Ernest from the CNMI Attorney General's Office; Frankie Eliptico and Joan Torres from the Northern Marianas College; and Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara of Mailman & Kara, LLC.

The conference includes handouts, refreshments, and lunch and the cost is \$30 for SHRM members and \$40 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail shrmnmichapter@gmail.com. (PR)

Registration for ASIST Training on Dec. 20, 21

HAGÁTÑA, Guam—As part of the series of suicide prevention efforts on Guam, a new round of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is scheduled to take place on Dec. 20 and 21 at the Westin Hotel, from 8am to 5pm.

DMHSA Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE office) is now accepting registration from individuals interested in joining the training.

ASIST is a two-day workshop locally coordinated by the

Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training Branch staff along with other certified ASIST trainers in the community. Participants can expect to learn the application of "suicide first aid"—how to be ready, willing and able to help prevent the immediate risks of suicide.

Individuals age 16 years or older are eligible to register and join. Average cost for materials and logistical needs for attending ASIST is \$838.

However, training fee is completely waived through the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial (GLSM) youth suicide prevention grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSA).

For information on registration and other local suicide prevention efforts, contact the DMHSA Prevention and Training Branch (PEACE office) at 671-477-9079 ~ 83. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-005

PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION OF LED STREET LIGHTS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the procurement and installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA).

The Bid Packet may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable payment from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card, in the amount of \$100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 5, 2012 at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-005, Procurement and Installation of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) Street Lights" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 19, 2012 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety firm holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety firm must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.


The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page — <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 9, 2012 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Alfredo Palattao, Power Division Engineer via email alfredo.palattao@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Administrative Assistant, Procurement & Supply via mika.muna@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



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Opinion

Haifa Adail

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Shortchanging Somalia

It's hard to imagine what could make the situation in Somalia, a desperately poor failed state that hasn't had a functioning government since 1991 and is in the midst of a deadly drought, even worse. But a Minnesota bank may have found something.

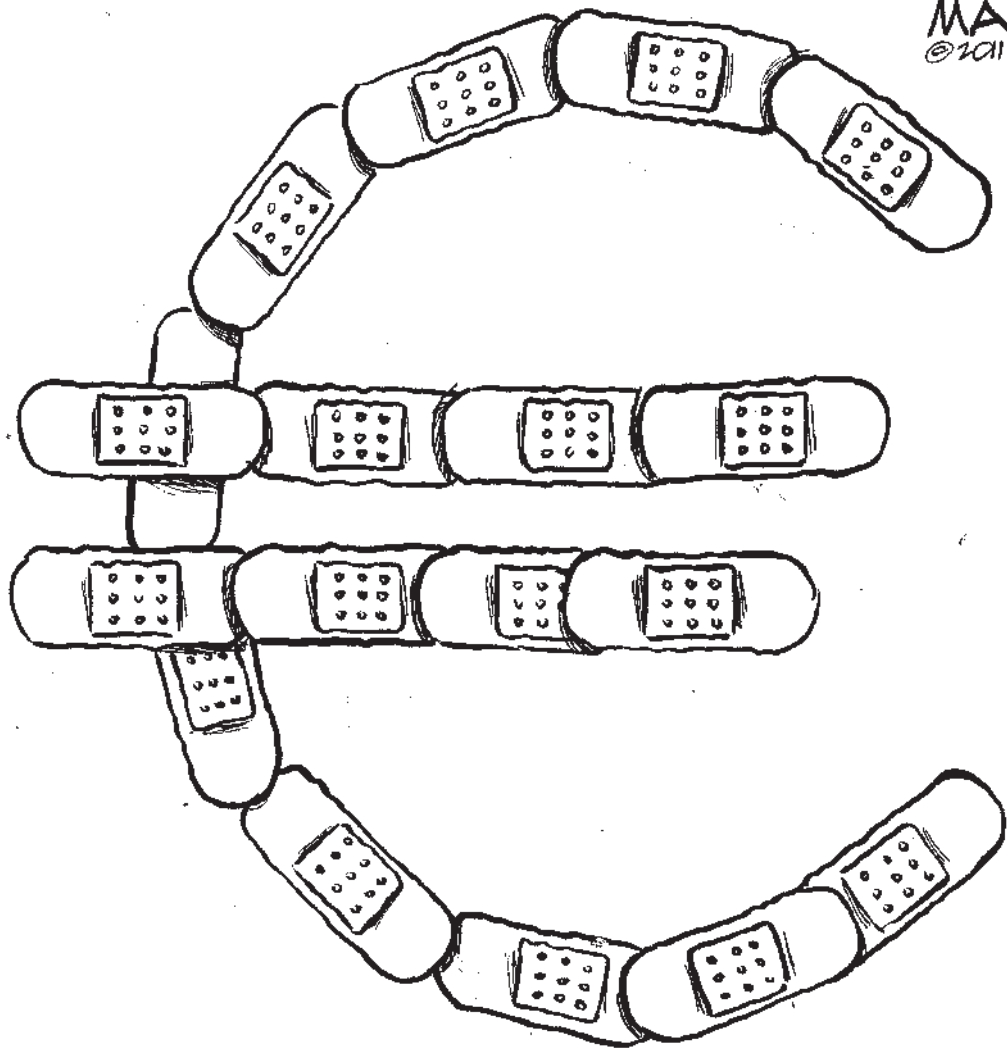
Minneapolis-based Franklin Bank is widely believed to be the last bank in the state, and probably the nation, that still facilitates wire transfers of money to Somalia. That may end Dec. 30, when it plans to stop. Somali immigrants in the United States, who have settled in large numbers in Minnesota's Twin Cities, annually send an estimated \$100 million back to their homeland. In a country where the average income is less than \$2 a day, that's enough to help thousands of families ward off starvation. It would be easy to blame bank officials for making such a heartless decision, but the fault lies more properly with Washington and its strict rules aimed at preventing money from flowing to terrorists.

In October, two Minnesota women were convicted of wiring more than \$8,600 to the Shabab, a militant Islamic group in Somalia affiliated with al-Qaida, and this month a Somali refugee in San Diego confessed to a similar crime. Although no bank has ever been prosecuted for sending money to Somali terrorists, officials with Sunrise Community Banks in St. Paul, Franklin's holding company, decided it was just too risky to continue facilitating remittances to Somalia. Many larger banks had already come to that conclusion, having exited the business after the federal government starting cracking down on terrorist financing in the wake of 9/11.

Cutting off funding sources for jihadists at war with the United States is obviously an important priority, but there must be a way of doing it that doesn't end all remittances to and from innocent people. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., sent a letter to the State and Treasury departments after Sunrise's announcement pointing out that if remittances from Somali expatriates living in the United States cease, it could actually benefit the Shabab, which could claim that "America was preventing needed funds from getting to suffering Somalis."

Because Somalia has no real banking system, money is distributed through informal transfer businesses called hawalas, but these operators must work with formal banks to wire the money overseas. Hawalas in Minnesota are preparing to shut down unless the federal government steps in before the end of the month. One possible solution: The State Department could grant Franklin Bank a waiver from prosecution in the event that one of its customers, without the bank's knowledge, sends money to a terrorist group. That seems both fair and effective.

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The week that was in Israel

Two Israelis made world headlines recently. In Stockholm, professor Dan Shechtman of the Haifa Technion (Israel's Institute of Technology) won the Nobel Prize in chemistry. In Perth, Australia, Lee Korzits won the gold medal at the women's Sailing World Championships, bringing her closer to the 2012 London Olympics.

While in both cases this is a huge personal accomplishment, I believe that it says something about the hotbed that has bred these two outstanding individuals: their country, Israel.

The 70-year-old Shechtman won the prestigious prize for discovering "quasicrystals." Please don't expect me to explain what those are. Even his wife, Tzipora Shechtman of Haifa University, has said she couldn't. More than 40 years ago I tried to win acceptance to the department of chemistry at the Technion, but luckily for me, they rejected me. So I can't interpret for you what the papers say about those mysterious "crystals whose atomic pattern is highly geometrical yet never repeats."

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, on the other hand, tried its best. "Contrary to the previous belief that atoms were packed inside crystals in symmetrical patterns, Shechtman showed that the atoms in a crystal could be packed in a pattern that could not be repeated," the RSAS said.

The Swedes, with understatement, added an interesting note. "His discovery was extremely controversial. In the course of defending his findings, he was asked to leave his research group. However, his battle eventually forced scientists to reconsider their conception of the very nature of matter."

Let me tell you in an Israeli style what really happened. In 1982, while on sabbatical at Johns Hopkins University, Shechtman mixed in his laboratory aluminum with manganese and then chilled it and studied the atomic structure with the electron microscope. Instead of finding disorder, as expected, he saw concentric circles, each made of 10 bright dots the same distance from each other. Four or six dots in the circles would have been possible, but absolutely not 10. In an interview at the Technion he recalled that the finding had caused him to say out loud in Hebrew, "There can be no such creature."

His colleagues took great pains in reassuring him that indeed, "There was no such creature." One of them brought him a book. "Why don't you read it, and realize it can't exist?"

"I know it can't exist," replied Shechtman, "but here it is."

Then came ridicule and expulsion. The worst was Linus Pauling, the double-Nobel laureate who, until his death in 1994, kept saying that Shechtman was "talking nonsense."

Lee Korzits' hard road to the top was different. Nobody could say anything once she came in first, and the only hostility she encountered was that of winds and waves. Already in 2003, the 27-year-old

By **URI DROMI**
McClatchy Newspapers

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Israeli became the youngest windsurfing world champion. In 2006, however, following a board-surfing injury and professional dispute with the national team coach, Korzits quit competing for several years. The interval was marred with personal difficulties. Yet recently she made a tremendous comeback, and now, more mature and seasoned, she is preparing for the London Olympics.

Apart from the natural national pride, there is something of these two heroes which is engrained in the DNA of every Israeli, and indeed, in the Israeli collective. Like in Shechtman's case, for decades people looked at the state of Israel with wonder, some with hostility, saying "There can be no such creature." For how can there be a Jewish and democratic state? An island of democracy in an ocean of tyrannical regimes or chaos? A country void of any natural resources and under constant mortal danger, which has nevertheless produced a stable economy, blooming culture and ten Nobel Prize laureates?

A case in point is the way Israel has been fighting Arab terrorism. From day one we have proclaimed that the old laws of war, enacted when uniform-wearing armies were fighting each other, turned obsolete once the enemy became elusive, using un-involved civilians as human shields. We were reprimanded for that, because like in the laboratory at Johns Hopkins, this was not what the books were saying. Took some time and painful lessons for the world to change its mind.

And the story of the young sailor, isn't that the story of the Jewish state in the first place? Rising from the ashes and suffering harsh blows, yet with strong will and perseverance, always aspiring for new peaks?

In his speech at the banquet in Stockholm, Shechtman said that "it is therefore our duty as scientists to promote education, rational thinking and tolerance." Upon returning to his hometown, Haifa, Mayor Yona Yahav took him at his word. Soon, the Nobel Prize Laureate will lead a program to promote the teaching of science and technology in the city's kindergartens. Lee Korzits, meanwhile, serves as a sport model for young generation in our country.

So much for one week in Israel.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

For unto us

I was surprised when one of the officers of the International Education Center of Shenyang Aerospace University here in China inquired about our religious affiliation. I suppose, she was concerned that we are properly greeted this Christmas season, it being of religious significance to many in the foreign teaching staff.

On display among our staff is evangelical passion, high Catholic dramaturgy, Quaker “simple gifts,” Presbyterian confidence, all quite familiar to us having drank deeply from its wells. Nipponese colleagues are oblivious to Kyodan oikumene’s lording guilt and moralism on life and pleasure; young Calvinist Hanggul capitalists spread bulgogi around while bells jingle in Seoul’s luxuriant shopping malls, and an Indo-Aryan descendant of the Persian plateau has esoteric habits from Down-Under, but there is something fresh about the blatant commercialism that attends China’s celebration of Christmas. My quiet sentiment goes with Bolshevik colleague who does not “believe any of that.”

Whatever luggage one brings to this festive season, the common global denominator these days is the cynics’ Christ Ma\$\$ as a Chamber of Commerce affair rather than a moment of destinal reflection, communal meditation and individual accountability.

In my life’s journey, on Christmas of 1968, the Apollo 8 mission sent photos of the blue planet rising from the pockmarked lunar landscape. Suddenly, the chorister’s For unto Us a Child is Born took on an existential question of identity, vocation and lifestyle. My communal heritage threaded through the Chanukah story of Moses’ leading the exodus from Egypt Pharaoh’s bondage, wandered in Sinai, and of the chosen people, only Joshua was allowed to cross the Jordan. Centuries later, the sentiment will be repeated by those carted out by the Assyrians when they wailed, “how can

we sing to Zion by the rivers of Babylon?”

Followers of the Christos personalized that story with their own Yoshua Ibn Nazareth, who wandered through Palestinian dry hills before confronting the illusory powers of Jerusalem and was granted the ignominious award of a Roman crucifixion.

That story in Christo Rei post-Constantine spun the Christ-mass story from the nativity scene to the power of the empty tomb, and a sacrificial life vocation against the backdrop of the obedient Magnificat and three eastern potentates’ genuflecting meekly in lowly Bethlehem.

Europe’s Medieval period crowned the image of living the-way-life-is (YHWH) into the imperial throne, sending the hero Jesus to glory, and rendering the proletarian Iesu inaccessible to the masses. The monastics settled in the ministrations to mother Mary while the nuns pined for a sanctified walk with the beloved in the garden alone!

The story of the Greek’s “life force” logos, for all its attendant cultural dressings (sophistry, propaganda, mythology, metaphor, public relation, spin), was singularly clear about its message on human identity, vocation and lifestyle.

Identity is unequivocal: “From dust you came, to dust you shall return.” The supreme affirmation was firm: “thou art my son (sic) of whom I am well pleased.” Not unlike the fact of our birth, when Dad’s winsome 200 millionth sperm won my life’s lottery, and Mom’s ovule-lutionary chose me from a myriad of possibilities attest to decisions freely already made from the outset. We are, in Christ-mass imagery, incarnate. And how dare we let such identity go to waste!

Vocation is unmistakable: “This is my body, broken; my blood, spilled out. Take, eat and drink, all of it.” My brokenness is my wholeness, to be embraced totally, and the spilling of one’s being unconditionally expended. The crucified carpenter of Galilee asked his followers “to go do likewise.” “No love is greater than this,” the voice of mystery intones, “that one gives his life on behalf of another!” Vocation is total expenditure, for the other! Not accu-

American war, and the peace movement helped put him into office.

In the years leading up to the 2008 election, there were at least 10 national antiwar demonstrations that drew more than 100,000 participants each. The movement helped Rep. Barbara Lee to rise from a lone war opponent in Congress to the leader of a bloc of as many as 200 representatives calling for an end to the wars in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. Those combined forces—the peace movement and lawmakers who opposed continuing the Iraq war—created a political climate that enabled Obama to end the Iraq war over the objections of many in the Pentagon and most of his Republican presidential rivals.

Obama’s position on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan shifted occasionally during the decade, illustrating the powerful conflict of forces in play. In 2008, he seemed ready to accept the advice of the establishment-oriented Iraq Study Group, which recommended leaving a residual force of 10,000 to 15,000 troops in Iraq. After being elected, though, he surprised everyone by announcing in early 2009 that all U.S. forces would be pulled out of Iraq by the end of 2011.

In recent months, the administration seemed to be considering leaving behind a few thousand troops to continue training Iraqi forces, but it abandoned the idea after failing to reach a deal with the Iraqi government on legal immunity for the American troops.

Some peace activists view the fact that thousands of advisors and contractors will remain in Iraq on the U.S. Embassy payroll as evidence of a secret plan to continue the war by other means. But the war is as over as a war can be, and the peace movement should celebrate. Removing troops from Iraq will save tens of billions of dollars a year, and it will also save lives.

Now the challenge will be to bring the war in Afghanistan and the drone strikes over the border in Pakistan to an end as quickly as possible. Obama may have convinced himself that these are not “dumb

ple still to this day believed that nature is truth, or truth nature. It is fixed in our psyche that is all you need to know on earth, and all you need to know.

We are a food-gathering society in which life and living all depended on what nature provided. We learned to apply simplistic living where our supermarket is the ocean and land resources. Just as any other primitive society cruising in time, the indigenous people progressed as toiling, suffering, learning, and hoping society. The next time zone in this excursion was the impact of Christianity on the indigenous people. The acceptance that God is truth has unexplained nexus with “nature.” So, the indigenous people took this plexus of relations as truth.

In modern time era, materialism is taking charge of the life of the indigenous people. It seems to me that materialism is crisscross cutting the indigenous people’s respect and love of God and Nature. If

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.



mulation of wealth in banks, or assets in Garapan, or acquisition of power in capital hill and the capitol, will sate the human quest for significance and meaning.

Lifestyle is nothing but sheer freedom. Paul who came after the “first among many brothers (sic)” admonished the Galatians: “It is to freedom that we have been called.” Not authority but authenticity. The lifestyle of free ambiguous choices turns out to be the ecclesia’s (church) vision and mission.

Now, the global communion has transcended the cross and the crescent, the sutra and the chant, the silence and the taiji, the bread and wine, and we have since taken to tutoring Zhongguo students in the lingua franca of the new global order.

So when I wish one and all a Merry Christmas, one might hang on to the image of the magical manger and the angelic newborn babe in Europe’s medieval art, but it is the triune concern of identity, vocation, and lifestyle (my teaching curriculum, I might add), that gnaws at everyone’s heart, to which we now call the CNMI’s attention.

So, may this holiday season occasion personal reflections of identity, vocation and lifestyle in the wondrous journey we call “life”. For unto us, indeed, a child is born! That would be YOU. (Jesus already led the way.) Your move.

In Iraq, peace at last

As the United States completes its withdrawal from Iraq, it is worth pausing to remember the determined peace activists who opposed the war from the start, including one who took up their cause and became president.

On Friday, some of them will gather in Chicago at the Federal Plaza, where in October 2002 Barack Obama, then a member of the Illinois Senate, stepped onto the stage to oppose the looming Iraq war. The plaza should be remembered as the place where the long march to peace began.

At the time, neoconservatives were riding high. Not only had the president, George W. Bush, embraced many of their ideas; powerful figures in the Democratic Party were echoing them as well. Obama was not among them.

“I don’t oppose all wars,” he said that day, noting that he would take up arms himself to prevent a repeat of the Sept. 11 attacks. “What I am opposed to is a dumb war.”

Obama expressed outrage at “the cynical attempt by Richard Perle and Paul Wolfowitz and other armchair weekend warriors in this administration to shove their own ideological agendas down our throats, irrespective of the costs in lives lost and in hardships borne.” The saber-rattling, he said, represented an “attempt by political hacks like Karl Rove to distract us from a rise in the uninsured, a rise in the poverty rate, a drop in median income, to distract us from corporate scandals and a stock market which has just gone through the worst month since the Great Depression.”

It was a brave stance to take for an ambitious politician at a time when American support for war with Iraq was building. He went on to become the first president to campaign on a promise to end an ongoing

By **TOM HAYDEN**

Los Angeles Times

Tom Hayden, a former California state senator, is the author of The Long Sixties: From 1960 to Barack Obama. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



wars” carried out by mindless conservatives, but the Ph.D.s at the Pentagon and the State Department cannot prevent a deepening calamity.

This year, Rep. Lee orchestrated a Democratic National Committee resolution calling for a more rapid Afghan withdrawal, but so far the president has committed only to handing over responsibility for security to Afghan forces by 2014. The peace movement should push for a faster pace.

And if the president finds himself nostalgic for battle, I’d remind him of some largely forgotten—and prophetic—words from his 2002 speech: “You want a fight, President Bush? Let’s fight to make sure our so-called allies in the Middle East—the Saudis and the Egyptians—stop oppressing their own people, and suppressing dissent, and tolerating corruption and inequality, and mismanaging their economies so that their youth grow up without education, without prospects, without hope, the ready recruits of terrorist cells.

“You want a fight, President Bush? Let’s fight to wean ourselves of Middle East oil through an energy policy that doesn’t simply serve the interests of Exxon or Mobil.”

Those are the kinds of battles even a peace movement could embrace.

Letter to the Editor**Nature as truth**

The findings by the anthropologist and archaeologist who conducted a recent study of a latte site on Tinian gave us good bedrock foundation of important information about the indigenous people of these islands.

Such excursion to our past prior to recorded history of the land and people takes us back in time before the first contact with outsiders, the introduction of Christianity, and the influence of materialism to the indigenous people of these islands.

Before the first contact with a white man, the only truth that the indigenous people knew was “Nature.” The indigenous peo-

ple could just turn the clock one hundred years back, the indigenous people in these islands were in harmony with nature and they were secured with their God.

Is this the price we pay for being in modern times in deep relations with modern man? Materialism and capitalism are all in the same sphere of psychological and sociological order. When mammon is the root of all evil, it is time to revisit our primary instinct and search our soul and mind whether we are fulfilling the laws of God and Nature before their power inflict pain and suffering to those who disregard truth about their existence. This is just food for thought, and as you can see these subjects make good kitchen table discussions if not in public forum during the year 2012.






Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80

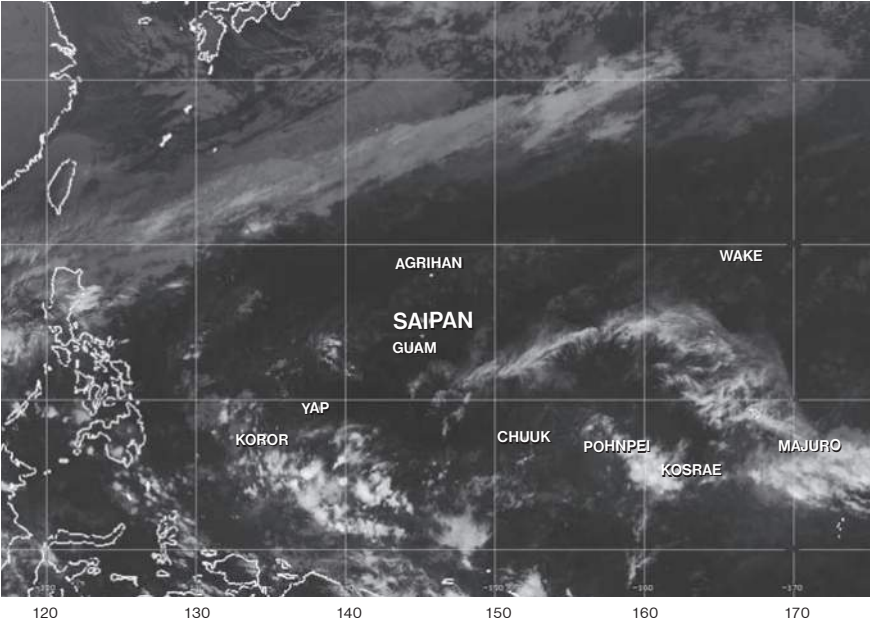
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 58
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 17
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 61
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 55
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 70
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 42 ▼ 40
Osaka	Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 40
Paris	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 39
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 36
Rome	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 39
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 35
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 46
Seoul	Ice	▲ 37 ▼ 24
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 34
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 44

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:46 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
8:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet	
2:57 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
10:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A nearly stationary front extends southwestward from just north of Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E to beyond 130E at 19N. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and north of this boundary to beyond 25N. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Koror and Yap or within 250 miles of a line from 4N136E to 4N144E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro between 3N and 8N from 157E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Friday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:41 AM	1:38 PM
Wednesday	2:41 AM	2:28 PM
Thursday	3:43 AM	3:24 PM
Friday	4:47 AM	4:23 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	5:24 PM

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN** Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Brain strain: Christmas shopping when money tight

NEW YORK (AP)—Chennel King, a nurse from Norwalk, Conn., went Christmas shopping the other day with a new holiday companion: a budget.

Despite a tough economic situation—her husband was laid off almost a year ago—King didn't want to disappoint her five children. So she still went to a mall in suburban New Jersey, but with a limit of \$200 per child.

Plenty of Americans are having to hold back this year as the lure of flashy ads, tempting bargains and family expectations clashes with the realities of the economy. Experts in consumer behavior say that situation can strain the brain.

Scientists say we are to some extent wired for shopping. It seems to tap into circuits that originally spurred our ancestors to go out looking for food, says Brian Knutson, an associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at Stanford University.

"We are built to forage, just like rats, just like dogs," Knut-

son said. So we have brain circuitry that "compels us to go out there ... to get good stuff, even if we don't know what that good stuff is."

Brain scanning in his lab shows deep brain circuitry called the nucleus accumbens goes to work when people are considering products and prices. When brain cells in that area release a chemical called dopamine, people are motivated to take action, he said.

So the very prospect of shopping—maybe brought on by ads and other marketing tools—may arouse that circuitry and put us in a mood to hit the stores, and then to keep on shopping, he said. "You feel good... It's exciting," Knutson said.

Other circuitry reacts to excessively high prices and dampens the enthusiasm to buy, he said. The competing signals—buy and don't-buy—are passed to the front of the brain, in the prefrontal cortex, where a decision about whether to purchase something is apparently made, he said.

But how does that decision get made when money is tight? Knutson said he hasn't studied that question. But he notes that yet another area of the brain, called the cingulate cortex, responds to conflicts like wanting to buy something that costs too much. So maybe it pitches in when a shopper feels restrained by a budget.

King, the recent mall shopper, isn't sure how much she spent last year but it was a lot, with new bedroom sets, a camera for one daughter, a camcorder for one son, and four PlayStations. This year, she turned down the requests of her oldest two for an iPad. But she didn't consider cutting out Christmas totally. And she's mindful to buy the same number of presents for each kid.

"You only live once," King said. "If it's something my kids really want, I try to get it at the lowest possible price."

From what experts recommend about holding down spending, King was smart to set a budget ahead of time, but she

probably made her task tougher by going to a mall.

When you're surrounded by attractive goods and crowds of people buying them, "natural human desires can trigger off intense cravings" to buy, says George Loewenstein, a professor of economics and psychology at Carnegie Mellon University. "Not spending when you're tempted to spend is exhausting

and miserable," like not eating when you're hungry, he says.

Trying to apply will power "should be your last resort," he said. Much better is to stay away from the mall in the first place, "and it will be much easier to exert self-control."

It might be preferable to shop on the Internet so you're not surrounded by buyers, although the convenience of online shop-

ping holds its own temptations, he said.

If you do go to a mall, commit yourself beforehand to a hard limit on spending, Loewenstein recommends. "Generally, people tend to be a lot more tempted when there is some kind of uncertainty about whether you're going to get whatever it is you're tempted by," he said.



In this Nov. 25, 2011 file photo, shoppers grab televisions at a store in Knoxville, Tenn., minutes after it opened. Plenty of Americans are having to hold back this year as the lure of flashy ads, tempting bargains and family expectations clashes with the realities of the economy.

Asia stocks lower amid news of Kim Jong Il death

SHANGHAI (AP)—Asian stock markets slid Monday amid news that the mercurial leader of nuclear-armed North Korea has died, raising fears of increased political instability in the region.

South Korea's Kospi index dived 4.1 percent to 1,765.15. Japan's Nikkei 225 index was down 1.1 percent at 8,304.47, Hong Kong's Hang Seng slid 2.5 percent to 17,833.42 and the Shanghai Composite Index fell 2.6 percent to 2,167.68.

Kim Jong Il's death was announced Monday by the state television from the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. It raises the possibility of increased instability on the divided Korean peninsula as the reclusive regime undergoes a leadership succession.

Kim, who had been ailing after suffering what is thought to have been a stroke in 2008, died at age 69 on Saturday.

Kim had presented his third son, the twenty-something Kim Jong Un, as his hereditary successor, putting him in high-ranking posts. But even with an apparent successor, some North Korean observers fear a behind-the-scenes power

struggle or nuclear instability.

South Korea put its military on "high alert" and President Lee Myung-bak convened a national security council meeting after the news of Kim's death.

Markets in Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Indonesia also fell.

"Particularly with the bearish market sentiment now, any negative news will make the market much more gloomy," said Kwong Man Bun, chief operating officer at KGI Securities in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong benchmark dipped 100 points after the news hit which "reflects concern over potential political instability," he said.

Kim's death overshadowed what already was a gloomy start to the week as jitters about Europe's debt crisis weighed on sentiment. Fitch Ratings said late last week it could downgrade the credit ratings of six European countries—heavyweights Italy and Spain, as well as Belgium, Cyprus, Ireland and Slovenia.

Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Services downgraded Belgium's credit rating and Ireland released data showing its econ-

omy is in worse shape than expected, with third-quarter GDP falling 1.9 percent.

Coming just a week after EU leaders struck a deal they thought would contain the continent's debt crisis, the onslaught of negative news shredded hopes of a lasting solution to the turmoil that is endangering the euro—the currency used by 17 European nations—and threatening the entire global economy.

"Everyone is waiting to see what comes from the next conference of European nations. Hopefully something good," said Jackson Wong of Tanrich Securities, in Hong Kong.

Chinese markets fell Monday after rebounding at the end of last week on speculation that the government might further ease reserve requirements for banks to help increase the amount of money available for lending to support growth.

"Everything came up empty" over the weekend, Wong said. "We are giving back the gains we had Friday."

Benchmark oil was down 56 cents at \$92.97 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

both Guam and the CNMI, he successfully spearheaded the installation of new towers and the rollout of new sites throughout Guam and Saipan.

On top of this latest promotion, Dilley will concurrently still hold his present position as iConnect field operations director for both Guam and the CNMI. (PR)

Economic recovery slow for US nonprofits

SEATTLE (AP)—As the first signs of an economic recovery make the news, many of the nation's nonprofit organizations are digging in for another three to four years of financial distress, according to researchers who keep an eye on the charitable world.

Some larger nonprofits are seeing donations start to rise again, but most report their income is holding steady at lower, post-recession levels or is still going down, according to a new study from the Nonprofit Research Collaborative.

The collaborative found 59 percent of nonprofits report their donation income is flat or lower than in 2010, which was another down year for most charities. Among those that receive some government dollars—long considered a safety net for charitable organizations—more than half are reporting a decline in income for the year.

Forty-one percent of nonprofits have seen their donation income go up in 2011, but most of the nation's smaller charities with less than \$3 million in total spending saw donations drop again this year.

Food pantries and homeless shelters across the country have reported funding crises this year because of an increase in need coupled with a

drop in donations.

Siena House, a women's shelter in Waukesha, Wis., briefly shut down this past summer because it didn't have the money to continue operations. A fall fundraising drive brought in \$60,000 and Siena House was able to reopen in December.

The First Baptist Church of Danville, Ky., in November closed its small food bank that fed up to 200 families a year because of volunteer and donation shortages. The food bank depended entirely on donations for its operation and volunteers to run it and just couldn't keep up with demand, said Tom Butler, a church volunteer.

About 8 percent of the charities included in the report say they are in danger of closing for financial reasons, while among smaller charities, that figure is 20 percent.

"Nonprofits are still facing very challenging circumstances," said Una Osili, director of research at The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, one of six organizations in the Nonprofit Research Collaborative.

Few will actually go out of business, Osili said, but cutting programs and laying off staff are a real possibility. Many are using volunteers to do jobs previously completed by staff.

"The good news is that nonprofits are starting to look ahead and think about ways to adjust to the new environment we're in," she said.

Because most nonprofits spend money the year after they earn it, or budget according to a three-year average, even when the economy does pick up, the recovery for charities will take longer, she said.

Osili said it could take donors as many as four years to return to pre-recession giving levels, in part because it takes a while for individuals and corporations to regain confidence in their own financial stability.

Jon Fine, CEO of the United Way of King County, Wash., said the nonprofit groups his organization supports through its fundraising have had at least three down years because of the recession.

In fiscal 2011, the Seattle-based United Way experienced its first up year since fiscal 2007, with donations of \$119 million compared to \$100 million in fiscal 2010. That's still below the \$124 million total for 2007.

"I think it's less about a clear indication that the economy is improving, and it's more about individuals and corporations are willing to support proven programs that get results," Fine said.

Dilley now in charge of iConnect CNMI

iConnect has promoted Michael Dilley to executive director for CNMI Operations. A longtime Saipan resident, Dilley, who joined the company in 2008, will take on his new role effective immediately and will be in charge of the iConnect CNMI operations.

Dilley brings with him an extensive background in the telecommunications industry with years of experience as field operations manager for various telecommunications companies in the CNMI.

During Dilley's time as iConnect field operations director for



Nation

House GOP leaders want new payroll tax cut bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Top House Republicans rebelled Sunday against a bipartisan, Senate-approved bill extending payroll tax cuts and jobless benefits for two months.

The House GOP defiance cast uncertainty over how quickly Congress would forestall a tax increase otherwise heading straight at 160 million workers beginning New Year's Day.

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said it could be finished within two weeks, which suggested that lawmakers might have to spend much of their usual holiday break battling each other in the Capitol.

A day after rank-and-file House GOP lawmakers used a conference call to spew venom against the Senate-passed bill, Boehner said he opposed the

legislation and wanted congressional bargainers to craft a new, yearlong version.

"The president said we shouldn't be going anywhere without getting our work done," Boehner said on NBC's "Meet the Press," referring to President Barack Obama's oft-repeated promise to postpone his Christmastime trip to Hawaii if the legislation was not finished.

"Let's get our work done, let's do this for a year."

A spokeswoman for House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., said the House would vote Monday to either request formal bargaining with the Senate or to make the legislation "responsible and in line with the needs of hard-working taxpayers and middle-class families."

Cantor spokeswoman Laena Fallon did not specify what

those changes might be, beyond a longer-lasting bill. Boehner, though, expressed support for "reasonable reductions in spending" in a House-approved payroll tax bill and for provisions that blocked some Obama administration anti-pollution rules.

Democrats leaped at what they saw as a chance to champion lower- and middle-income Americans by accusing Repub-

licans of threatening a wide tax increase unless their demands are met. If Congress doesn't act, workers would see their take-home checks cut by 2 percentage points beginning Jan. 1, when this year's 4.2 percent payroll tax reverts to its normal 6.2 percent.

"They should pass the two month extension now to avoid a devastating tax hike from hitting the middle class in just 13 days," said Dan Pfeiffer, the White House communications director. "It's time House Republicans stop playing politics and get the job done for the American people."

Sen. Charles Schumer of New York, the Senate's No. 3 Democratic leader, said "it's a make-or-break moment for John Boehner's speakership."

"You cannot let a small group at the extreme resort to brinkmanship every time there is a major national issue and try to dictate every move this nation makes," Schumer said.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said by opposing the Senate bill, "Tea party House Republicans are walking away once again, showing their extremism and clearly demonstrating that they never intended to give the middle class a tax cut," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Adam Jentleson, spokesman for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, said the Nevada Democrat would be "happy to continue negotiating a yearlong extension as soon as the House passes the Senate's short-term, bipartisan compromise to make sure middle-class families will not be hit by a thousand-dollar tax hike on January 1."

Mixed emotions for Iraq vets in the White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tanya Bradsher felt a rush of relief each morning when the updates came in letting her know how many U.S. troops were left in Iraq.

Each time the number ticked closer to zero, it meant more of her fellow veterans had made their final trip out of Iraq safely. Her biggest fear was that the remaining U.S. troops would get hit on their way out. She would hold her breath and think, "today is a good day, tomorrow hopefully will be a good day."

Sunday was the day Bradsher, a lieutenant colonel in the Army, had been waiting for. The last of all U.S. troops in Iraq safely crossed the border into Kuwait, bringing the divisive war to a close.

Bradsher, a lieutenant colonel in the Army, witnessed the war's final days from a unique vantage point. The soft-spoken mother of three is one of several Iraq war veterans now working in the White House, helping President Barack Obama bring the war that defined them to a close.

In transitioning from the battlefield to the White House, they have given the war a face and voice in West Wing, serving as a constant reminder that, for a small percentage of Americans, the long, divisive conflict has also been a matter of life and death.

"It's a bit of a gut check on everything you say and do about the policy of the war and the politics of it," said Ben Rhodes, deputy national security adviser for strategic communication.

The end of the nearly nine-year war marked a promise



AP

In this photo taken Dec. 13, 2011, Army Lt. Col. Tanya Bradsher, National Security Council spokeswoman, poses at the White House grounds in Washington.

fulfilled for Obama, who took office pledging to end the conflict. Mindful of the politics of war, some of the veterans who now work for Obama are careful not to draw a direct connection between the president's positions on the Iraq war and their decision to work for his administration.

Still, Steve Miska, Obama's director of Iraq policy, said he had "an overwhelming sense of relief" when the president announced that the war was coming to a close. An Army lieutenant colonel and father of two, Miska did three tours of duty in Iraq, including a 16-month stint in Baghdad that spanned the height of the sectarian violence there.

"My goal was that my generation finish this war so that my son, who is thinking about what he's going to do in college in two years, would not have to complete it with his generation," he said.

Like many veterans of the unpopular war, the military's departure from Iraq has stirred

mixed emotions for the veterans in the White House. It's surreal, they say. Bittersweet. A moment of contemplation.

"You go back to your personal recollections of people maybe you know that were lost in battle, to their families, and to the guys who came back very much changed. And I think most people do come back changed in some way," said Matt Flavin, who joined the military after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and served in Iraq from 2005 to 2006, working in Baghdad and Ramadi.

Flavin now serves as director of the White House office on veterans and wounded warrior policy, focusing on how the administration can assist the veterans returning home from Iraq, as well as Afghanistan.

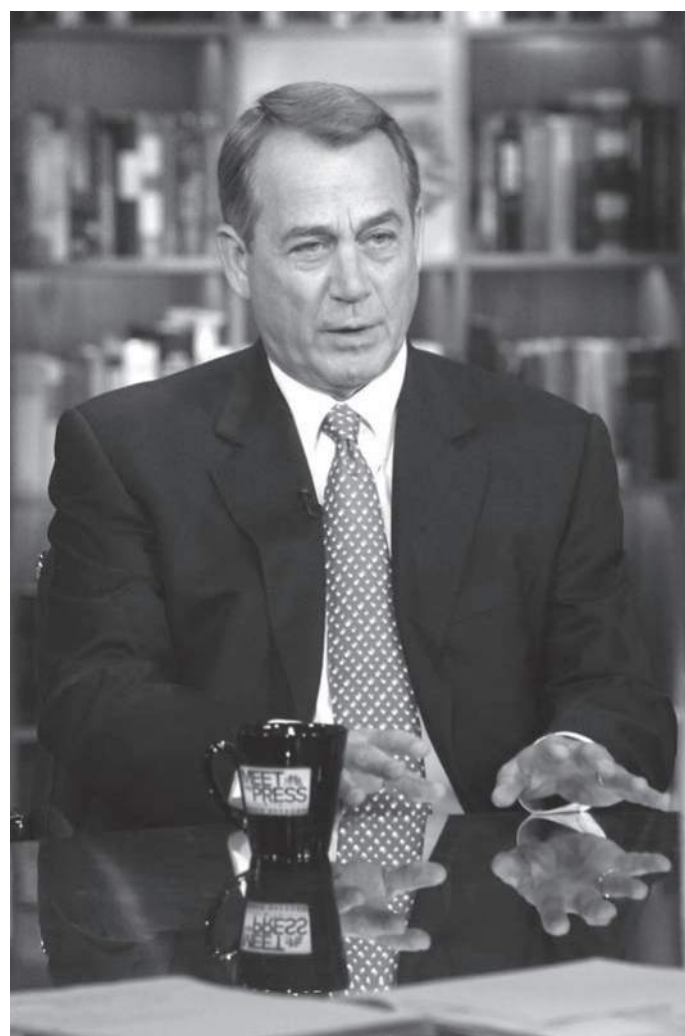
With no military background himself, Obama has often sought the guidance of veterans like Flavin, Miska and Bradsher, who serves as a spokeswoman for the National Security Council. Before delivering a speech last week at North Carolina's Fort Bragg, Obama had the Iraq veterans review the remarks he planned to deliver to service members and their families.

Darrienne Page, an Army veteran now working in the White House on veterans and wounded warrior outreach, traveled with the president to Fort Bragg. The war's finality hit home for her on that trip, she said, when she met a young service member who asked her to thank the president for allowing him to spend his first Christmas home with his family in four years.

Kim's death would likely delay the process. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation. They said the U.S. was particularly concerned about any changes in the military postures of North and South Korea but were hopeful that calm would prevail.

The White House said it was monitoring the situation closely and in constant touch with allies South Korea and Japan, but it offered no substantive comment on the implications of Kim's death. "We remain committed to stability on the Korean peninsula, and to the freedom and security of our allies," it said in a statement.

Kim's death was announced by state media in a "special broadcast" from Pyongyang late Sunday. The reports said Kim died of a heart ailment on a train due to a "great mental and physical strain" on Dec. 17 during a "high intensity field inspection."



AP

In this Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, photo provided by NBC News, Speaker of the House, Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, appears on NBC's "Meet the Press" in Washington.

ACROSS THE NATION

Victim of LA office shooting remains in hospital

LOS ANGELES (AP)—One victim remained hospitalized Sunday as authorities searched for a motive after an employee shot four co-workers, killing two, before turning the gun on himself at a utility office east of Los Angeles. Angela Alvarez, 46, was in critical condition following Friday's shooting inside a complex that houses more than a thousand Southern California Edison employees. There was no new information on her condition. Authorities have identified the shooter as Andre Turner, 48, of Norco in Riverside County. Investigators say Turner methodically picked off his co-workers with a semiautomatic handgun, and then shot himself.

NYC police: Man says he set woman afire over debt

NEW YORK (AP)—As Deloris Gillespie went up the elevator to her fifth-floor Brooklyn apartment, carrying groceries, a man was waiting to set her on fire. Later, a 47-year-old man stinking of gasoline went into a police station and implicated himself in Gillespie's death. The suspect, Jerome Isaac, told police he set her on fire because she owed him \$2,000 for some work he had done for her, Browne said. Jaime Holguin, who lives on the same floor as Gil-

lespie, saw surveillance pictures of the attacker and said, "Oh, my God!" Holguin, the manager of news development for The Associated Press, said the man in the surveillance pictures looked like a man who had lived with Gillespie for about six months last year and appeared to have been helping her out. He was certain Isaac was the man who worked for Gillespie after seeing post-arrest pictures of the suspect.

BLM sued over NV mustang castration, roundup plans

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A coalition of conservationists and wild-horse activists is suing the government to block its implementation of a precedent-setting plan to castrate hundreds of wild stallions in eastern Nevada. The lawsuit, filed by the Western Watersheds Project, the American Wild Horse Preservation Campaign and the Cloud Foundation, follows the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's decision in July to back off a similar plan to castrate hundreds of wild stallions in Wyoming. The suit, filed Wednesday in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., challenges the BLM's plans to remove roughly 1,800 wild horses from the sprawling Pancake Complex near Ely over the next six to 10 years, and to castrate 200 wild stallions before releasing them back to the area as geldings.

Officials: US weighs NKorea policy after Kim death

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration is warily watching developments on the Korean peninsula after the death of North Korea's leader Kim Jong Il and may postpone decisions on re-engaging the country in nuclear talks and providing it with food aid, U.S. officials said Sunday.

The administration had been expected to decide on both issues this week, possibly as early as Monday, but the officials said

Kim's death would likely delay the process. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the situation. They said the U.S. was particularly concerned about any changes in the military postures of North and South Korea but were hopeful that calm would prevail.

The White House said it was monitoring the situation closely and in constant touch with allies South Korea and Japan, but it of-

Asia

Philippine storm toll exceeds 650; 900 missing

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP)—As a storm that killed more than 650 in the southern Philippines raged outside the store where she works, Amor Limbago worriedly called home to check on her parents, but their cellphones just kept ringing and later went dead.

Limbago, 21, rushed home as soon as the flash floods receded and confirmed her worst fear: Her parents and seven other relatives were gone, swept away from their hut by the river. They had eagerly planned a small Christmas dinner in that hut just days earlier.

"I returned and saw that our house was completely gone," a weeping Limbago told The Associated Press from Cagayan de Oro city. "There was nothing but mud all over and knee-deep floodwaters."

Tropical Storm Washi blew away Sunday after devastating a wide swath of the mountainous region on Mindanao island, which is unaccustomed to major storms. It killed at least 652 people and left more than 900 others missing, the Philippine Red Cross said.

Most of the victims were asleep Friday night when flash floods cascaded down mountain slopes with logs and uprooted trees, swelling rivers. The late-season tropical storm turned the worst-hit coastal cities of Cagayan de Oro and nearby Iligan into muddy wastelands filled with overturned cars and broken trees.

Most of the dead were children and women, Red Cross Secretary General Gwendolyn Pang said.

Iligan Mayor Lawrence Cruz said Monday that he was suggesting a mass burial because of health concerns. Apart from the decomposing bodies, dead livestock lie scattered in the mud.

Leaders around the world, including U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, offered help and Pope Benedict XVI on Sunday said he would pray "for the victims, largely children, for the homeless, and for the numerous ones gone missing."

The government's Office of Civil Defense placed the



A car rests on the concrete fence of a house Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011 at Iligan city in southern Philippines. Tropical storm Washi blew away Sunday after devastating the southern Philippines with flash floods that killed hundreds of people as they slept and turned two coastal cities into a muddy wasteland filled with overturned cars and uprooted trees.

number of dead at 516 with 274 missing and 431 others rescued. Its head, Benito Ramos, said he expected the toll to rise and added that the government count was slower because authorities try to identify each casualty by verifying it with relatives.

Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and top military officials flew to Cagayan de Oro and Iligan to help oversee search-and-rescue efforts and deal with about 45,000 displaced villagers. Among the items urgently needed are coffins and body bags, said Benito Ramos, who heads the government's disaster-response agency.

"It's overwhelming. We didn't expect these many dead," said Ramos, adding that authorities were continuing to find bodies floating at sea.

Although the disaster-prone Philippines is lashed by about 20 typhoons and storms annually, the devastation shocked many, coming close to Christmas—the predominantly Roman Catholic nation's most-awaited time for family reunions. Army officials in the south said they canceled Christmas parties and would donate the food to homeless survivors.

Limbago said she and her mother, Jean, 50, and father Amancio, 63, planned to have a simple Christmas dinner of spaghetti. Those plans had evaporated Sunday as she and surviv-

ing relatives checked crowded morgues, hospitals and evacuation centers for any sign of her missing parents.

Others lost homes and belongings but were happy to have

survived.

Edmund Rubio, a 44-year-old engineer, said he, his wife and two children scrambled to the second floor of their house in Iligan city as floodwaters engulfed the first floor, destroying his TV set and other appliances and washing away his car and motorcycle.

Amid the panic, he heard a loud pounding on his door as neighbors living in nearby one-story houses pleaded with him to allow them up to his second floor. He said he brought 30 neighbors to the safety of his house, which later shook when a huge floating log slammed into it.

"It's the most important thing, that all of us will still be together this Christmas," Rubio told the AP.

About a block away from Rubio's house, rescuers used a backhoe and shovels to search for 19 people in the muddy ruins of a two-story house that collapsed when it was hit by a massive log. They dug out 11 bodies from the site Saturday, witnesses said.

Army officers reported unidentified bodies piled up in morgues in Cagayan de Oro,

where electricity was restored in some areas, although the city of more than 500,000 people remained without tap water.

At least 346 died in Cagayan de Oro and 206 in Iligan, the Red Cross said. The death toll was expected to rise because many isolated villages still had not been reached by overwhelmed disaster-response personnel.

"Our fear is there may have been whole families that perished so there's nobody to report what happened," Pang said.

Both Iligan, a bustling industrial center about 485 miles (780 kilometers) southeast of Manila, and Cagayan de Oro were filled with scenes of destruction and desperation.

A lone worker gingerly embalmed scores of bodies laid side by side in an Iligan city funeral parlor. Outside the embalming room, seven white coffins were placed in a corridor, surrounded by weeping relatives.

"Many mothers, fathers were walking from one funeral parlor to another, looking for their children," said army Maj. Eugenio Osias, who led a rescue effort in Cagayan de Oro.

North Koreans rally around Kim Jong Il's heir

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea on Monday urged its 24 million people to rally behind 20-something heir-apparent Kim Jong Un as the nation mourned the death of supreme leader Kim Jong Il.

South Korea, meanwhile, put its military on high alert, while people in the streets of Pyongyang broke into tears as they learned the news that Kim had died at the age 69 of heart failure. The United States said it was in close contact with allies South Korea and Japan.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the country, people and military "must faithfully revere respectable comrade Kim Jong Un."

"At the leadership of comrade Kim Jong Un, we have to change sadness to strength and courage and overcome today's difficulties," it said.

Kim Jong Il unveiled his

third son Kim Jong Un as his successor a year ago, putting him in high-ranking posts. Little is known about the younger Kim, who is believed to be in his 20s.

Kim Jong Un regularly accompanied his father on trips around the country over the past year. Kim Jong Il inherited power after his father, revered North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, died in 1994.

South Korea's police were placed on a high alert after Kim's death, according to the National Police Agency, and the South Korean parliament convened emergency committee sessions on national defense, intelligence and unification affairs. South Korean President Lee Myung-bak put the military on alert and convened a national security council meeting.

The South Korean and U.S. militaries have bolstered reconnaissance and are sharing intelligence assets on North Korea, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in South Korea.

The White House said in a statement that it is closely monitoring reports of Kim's death.

"The president has been notified, and we are in close touch with our allies in South Korea and Japan. We remain committed to stability on the Korean peninsula, and to the freedom and security of our allies," the statement said.

The North said it would place Kim's body in the Kumsusan memorial palace in Pyongyang and would hold a national mourning period until Dec. 29. Kim's funeral will be held on

Dec. 28, it said.

In a "special broadcast" Monday from the North Korean capital, state media said Kim died on a train due to a "great mental and physical strain" on Dec. 17 during a "high intensity field inspection." It said an autopsy was done on Dec. 18 and "fully confirmed" the diagnosis.

Kim is believed to have suffered a stroke in 2008, but he had appeared relatively vigorous in photos and video from recent trips to China and Russia and in numerous trips around the country carefully documented by state media.

"It is the biggest loss for the party ... and it is our people and nation's biggest sadness," an anchorwoman clad in black Korean traditional dress said in a voice choked with tears.

Asian stock markets moved lower amid the news, which raises the possibility of increased instability on the divided Korean peninsula.

South Korea's Kospi index was down 3.9 percent at 1,767.89 and Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 0.8 percent to 8,331.00. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 2 percent to 17,929.66 and the Shanghai Composite Index dropped 2 percent to 2,178.75.

A South Korean Foreign Ministry official, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the ministry was debating ways to respond to Kim's death, said diplomats are shocked but are trying to assess the situation as best as they can.



In this Oct. 10, 2010 file photo Kim Jong Un, right, along with his father and North Korea leader Kim Jong Il, left, attends during a massive military parade marking the 65th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party in Pyongyang, North Korea.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Pakistani president returns from medical treatment

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's president returned home early Monday, nearly two weeks after a surprise trip to Dubai for medical treatment sparked rumors that he might step down under pressure from the country's powerful military. President Asif Ali Zardari's arrival will likely help quell speculation about his future. But officials have not spelled out exactly what was wrong with the president, and he is still under threat from a memo scandal that has upset the army and already forced the Pakistani ambassador to the U.S. to resign. Zardari's plane landed at an air base in the southern port city of Karachi shortly after midnight, said Manzoor Wassan, the home minister in

Sindh province where Karachi is the capital.

Aussie dad says dingo will be blamed for lost baby

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The father of a baby who infamously vanished in the Australian Outback more than 30 years said Monday that he was confident a new inquiry into the tragedy will officially rule that a dingo took his daughter. The disappearance of 9-week-old Azaria Chamberlain on Aug. 17, 1980, from a campsite near Ayers Rock, the red monolith in the Australian desert now known but it Aboriginal name Uluru, divided Australians between those who believed a native dog known as a dingo killed her and those who believed she was murdered by her mother, Lindy Chamberlain.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt's military, activists vie for public support

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's ruling military and the revolutionaries who demand they immediately step down battled for a third day in the streets on Sunday—and competed fiercely for the support of a broader public that has grown tired of turmoil since the fall of Hosni Mubarak 10 months ago. The generals appear to be winning the fight for the public, despite a heavy-handed crackdown on protesters around Cairo's Tahrir Square using a roughness that rivaled even that of Mubarak's widely hated police force. Before dawn Monday, security forces mounted a charge and cleared hundreds of demonstrators away from the area, according to videos posted on the internet. Earlier, a man died in custody, a lawyer said.

Israel completes swap for captured soldier

BEITUNIA, West Bank (AP)—Israel released hundreds of Palestinian prisoners late Sunday, the second and final phase of a swap with Gaza Hamas militants that brought home an Israeli soldier after five years in captivity. Under the Egypt-brokered deal, Israel agreed to exchange a total of 1,027 prisoners for Sgt. Gilad Shalit, who was captured by Gaza militants in June 2006. Shalit returned home in October when Israel freed the first batch of 477 prisoners. Sunday's release of 550 prisoners completed the swap, the most lopsided in Israel's history. The release Sunday night was not infused with the same drama as the first phase, since the most significant players in the trade had already been freed.

Chile girl dies after split from conjoined twin

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—A 10-month-old girl who was surgically separated from her conjoined twin died Sunday after suffering general organ failure, said the director of a Chilean children's hospital. Doctors at Luis Calvo Mackenna Hospital had separated Maria Jose Paredes Navarrete from her twin sister Maria Paz late Tuesday at the thorax, abdomen and pelvis in a marathon, 20-hour surgery. Maria Jose ran into cardiac problems that required her to be revived three times afterward, and Maria Paz remains clinging to life, said hospital director Osvaldo Artaza. A hospital statement said Maria Jose had suffered "a flaw in the right side of the heart as a consequence of pulmonary hypertension that afflicted her since her birth."

Havel, hero of anti-communist revolution, dies

PRAGUE (AP)—The end of Czechoslovakia's totalitarian regime was called the Velvet Revolution because of how smooth the transition seemed: Communism dead in a matter of weeks, without a shot fired. But for Vaclav Havel, it was a moment he helped pay for with decades of suffering and struggle.

The dissident playwright spent years in jail but never lost his defiance, or his eloquence, and the government's attempts to crush his will ended up expanding his influence. He became a source of inspiration to Czechs, and to all of Eastern Europe. He went from prisoner to president in 1989, the year the Berlin Wall fell and communism crumbled across the region.

Havel died Sunday morning at his weekend home in the northern Czech Republic. The 75-year-old former chain-smoker had a history of chronic respiratory problems dating back to his time in prison.

Shy and bookish, with a wispy mustache and unkempt hair, Havel helped draw the world's attention to the anger and frustration spilling over behind the Iron Curtain. While he was president, the Czech Republic split from Slovakia, but it also made dramatic gains in economic might.

"His peaceful resistance shook the foundations of an empire, exposed the emptiness of a repressive ideology, and proved that moral leadership is more powerful than any weapon," said President Barack Obama. "He also embodied the aspirations of half a continent that had been cut off by the Iron Curtain, and helped unleash tides of history that led to a united and democratic Europe."

Mourners laid flowers and lit candles at Havel's villa in Prague. A black flag of mourning flew over Prague Castle, the presidential seat, and Havel was also remembered at a monument to the revolution in the capital's downtown. "Mr. President, thank you for democracy," one note read.

Lech Walesa, former Polish president and the Nobel Peace Prize-winning founder of the country's anti-communist Solidarity movement, called Havel "a great fighter for the freedom of nations and for democracy."

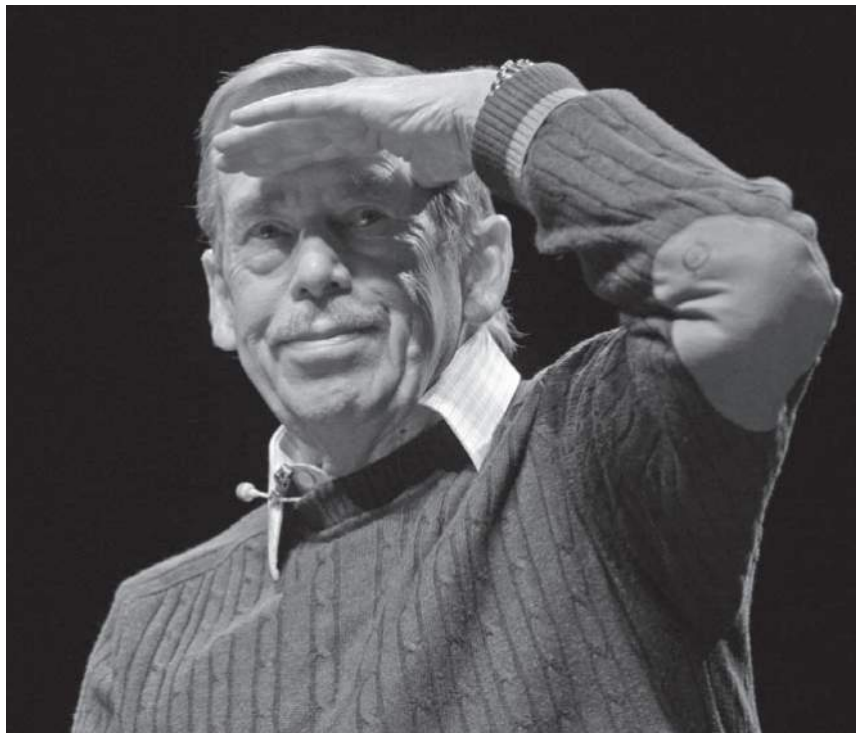
"Amid the turbulence of modern Europe, his voice was the most consistent and compelling—endlessly searching for the best in himself and in each of us," said former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, who is of Czech origin.

Havel was his country's first democratically elected president, leading it through the early challenges of democracy and its peaceful 1993 breakup into the Czech Republic and Slovakia, though his image suffered as his people discovered the difficulties of transforming their society.

He was an avowed peacenik who was close friends with members of the Plastic People of the Universe, a non-conformist rock band banned by the communist regime, and whose heroes included rockers such as Frank Zappa. He never quite shed his flower-child past and often signed his name with a small heart as a flourish.

"Truth and love must prevail over lies and hatred," Havel famously said. It became his revolutionary motto, which he said he always strove to live by.

"It's interesting that I had an adventurous life, even though I am not an adven-



In this Oct. 15, 2009 file photo former Czech President Vaclav Havel is seen during a press conference on occasion of the 20th anniversary of the changes in Czechoslovakia and the fall of the Iron Curtain in Prague.

turer by nature. It was fate and history that caused my life to be adventurous rather than me as someone who seeks adventure," he once told Czech radio.

Havel first made a name for himself after the 1968 Soviet-led invasion that crushed the Prague Spring reforms of Alexander Dubcek and other liberally minded communists in what was then Czechoslovakia.

Havel's plays were banned as hardliners installed by Moscow snuffed out every whiff of rebellion. But he continued to write, producing a series of underground essays that stand with the work of Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov as the most incisive and eloquent analyses of what communism did to society and the individual.

One of his best-known essays, "The Power of the Powerless," was written in 1978. It borrowed slyly from the opening line of the mid-19th century Communist Manifesto, writing: "A specter is haunting eastern Europe: the specter of what in the West is called 'dissent.'"

In the essay, he dissected what he called the "dictatorship of ritual"—the ossified Soviet bloc system under Leonid Brezhnev—and imagined what happens when an ordinary greengrocer stops displaying communist slogans and begins "living in truth," rediscovering "his suppressed identity and dignity."

Havel knew that suppression firsthand. He was born Oct. 5, 1936, in Prague, the child of a wealthy family that lost extensive property to communist nationalization in 1948. Havel was denied a formal education, eventually earning a degree at night school and starting out in theater as a stagehand.

His political activism began in earnest in January 1977, when he co-authored the human rights manifesto Charter 77, and the cause drew widening attention in the West.

Havel was detained countless times and spent four years in communist jails. His letters from prison to his wife were among his best-known works. "Letters to Olga" blended deep philosophy with a stream of stern advice to the spouse he saw as his mentor and best friend, and who tolerated his reputed philandering and other foibles.



Vaclav Havel

1936-2011

Former Czech president and dissident writer

Early years

Born 1936, in Prague, to a wealthy family that lost most of its property to the communists in 1948

Education Studied at night school after communists refused him admission to prominent schools

Writer and activist

• **Wrote about 20 plays**, as well as poems and essays

• **Writing gained attention** after the Soviet-led invasion to end the 1968 Prague Spring reforms, after which his writing was banned and forced underground

• **Among his best known works** are the play, "The Memorandum," the human rights manifesto Charter 77, co-authored in 1977, "The Power of the Powerless," 1978, and "Letters to Olga," written to his wife from prison

Political leader

1989-92 First democratically elected president of Czechoslovakia after the 1989 "Velvet Revolution" ousted the communists; served until the split into Czech Republic, Slovakia

1993-2003 Czech president; led his country during transition from communist to free-market economy, its joining NATO and negotiations to join the EU, achieved in 2004

Awards

• **Include** Sweden's esteemed Olof Palme Prize and the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom

Source: BBC, AP, New York Times
Graphic: Pat Carr © 2011 MCT

The events of August 1988—the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Pact invasion—first suggested that Havel and his friends might one day replace the apparatchiks who jailed them.

Thousands of mostly young people marched through central Prague, yelling Havel's name and that of the playwright's hero, Tomas Garrigue Masaryk, the philosopher who was Czechoslovakia's first president after it was founded in 1918.

Havel's arrest in January 1989 at another street protest and his subsequent trial generated anger at home and abroad. Pressure for change was so strong that the communists released him in May.

That fall, communism began to collapse across Eastern Europe, and in November the Berlin Wall fell. Eight days later, police brutally broke up a demonstration by thousands of Prague students.

It was the signal that Havel and his countrymen had awaited. Within 48 hours, a broad new opposition movement was founded, and a day later, hundreds of thousands of Czechs and Slovaks took to the streets.

In three heady weeks, communist rule was broken. Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones arrived just as the Soviet army was leaving. Posters in Prague proclaimed: "The tanks are rolling out—the Stones are rolling in."

On Dec. 29, 1989, Havel was elected Czechoslovakia's president by the country's still-communist parliament. Three days later, he told the nation in a televised New Year's address: "Out of gifted and sovereign people, the regime made us little screws in a monstrously big, rattling and stinking machine."

He continued to be regarded a moral voice as he decried the shortcomings of his society under democracy, but eventually bent to the dictates of convention and power. His watchwords—"what the heart thinks, the tongue speaks"—had to be modified for day-to-day politics.

In July 1992, it became clear that the Czechoslovak federation was heading for a split. He considered the breakup a personal failure, though years later he would conclude that it was for the best. Havel resigned as president, but he remained popular and was elected president of the new Czech Republic uncontested.

The job held great immense prestige but little power. The Czech Republic underwent major promarket reforms while Havel was president, but those have been credited mainly to his political archrival Vaclav Klaus, who was prime minister at the time and is the current president.

Havel's attempts to reconcile rival politicians were considered by many as unconstitutional intrusions, and his pleas for political leaders to build a "civic society" based on respect, tolerance and individual responsibility went largely unanswered.

Media criticism, once unthinkable, became unrelenting. Serious newspapers questioned his political visions; tabloids focused mainly on his private life.

Havel left office in 2003, months before the Czech Republic and Slovakia joined the European Union. He was credited with laying the groundwork that brought his country in 2004 into what is now a 27-nation bloc, and was president when it joined NATO in 1999—a moment of pride for him.

"I can't stop rejoicing that I live in this time and can participate in it," Havel exulted.

Focus

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Kim Jong Il, the mercurial and enigmatic North Korean leader whose iron rule and nuclear ambitions dominated world security fears for more than a decade, has died. He was 69.

Kim's death 17 years after he inherited power from his father was announced Monday by the state television from the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. The country's "Dear Leader"—reputed to have had a taste for cigars, cognac and gourmet cuisine—was believed to have had diabetes and heart disease.

North Korea has been grooming Kim's third son to take over power from his father in the impoverished nation that celebrates the ruling family with an intense cult of personality.

Kim's longtime pursuit of nuclear weapons and his military's repeated threats to South Korea and the U.S. have stoked fears that war might again break out or that North Korea might provide weapons of mass destruction to terrorist movements.

South Korea put its military on "high alert" and President Lee Myung-bak convened a national security council meeting after the news of Kim's death. The two Koreas remain technically in a state of war more than 50 years after the peninsula's Cold War-era armed conflict ended in a cease-fire.

Kim is believed to have suffered a stroke in 2008 but he had appeared relatively vigorous in photos and video from recent trips to China and Russia and in numerous trips around the country carefully documented by state media.

Kim Jong Il inherited power after his father, revered North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, died in 1994. He had been groomed for 20 years to lead the communist nation founded by his guerrilla fighter-turned-politician father and built according to the principle of "juche," or self-reliance.

In September 2010, Kim Jong Il unveiled his third son, the twenty-something Kim Jong Un, as his successor, putting him in high-ranking posts.

Even with a successor, there had been some fear among North Korean observers of a behind-the-scenes power struggle or nuclear instability upon the elder Kim's death.

Few firm facts are available when it comes to North Korea, one of the most isolated countries in the world, and not much is clear about the man known as the "Dear Leader."

North Korean legend has it that Kim was born on Mount Paekdu, one of Korea's most cherished sites, in 1942, a birth heralded in the heavens by a pair of rainbows and a brilliant new star. Soviet records, however, indicate he was born in Siberia, in 1941.

Kim Il Sung, who for years fought for independence from Korea's colonial ruler, Japan, from a base in Russia, emerged as a communist leader after returning to Korea in 1945 after Japan was defeated in World War II.

With the peninsula divided between the Soviet-administered north and the U.S.-administered south, Kim rose to power as North Korea's first leader in 1948 while Syngman Rhee became South Korea's first president.

The North invaded the South in 1950, sparking a war that would last three years, kill millions of civilians and

Kim Jong Il's nukes, threats stoked WORLD FEARS

leave the peninsula divided by a Demilitarized Zone that today remains one of the world's most heavily fortified.

In the North, Kim Il Sung meshed Stalinist ideology with a cult of personality that encompassed him and his son. Their portraits hang in every building in North Korea and on the lapels of every dutiful North Korean.

Kim Jong Il, a graduate of Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung University, was 33 when his father anointed him his eventual successor.

Even before he took over as leader, there were signs the younger Kim would maintain—and perhaps exceed—his father's hard-line stance.

South Korea has accused Kim of masterminding a 1983 bombing that killed 17 South Korean officials visiting Burma,

now known as Myanmar. In 1987, the bombing of a Korean Air Flight killed all 115 people on board; a North Korean agent who confessed to planting the device said Kim ordered the downing of the plane himself.

Kim Jong Il took over after his father died in 1994, eventually taking the posts of chairman of the National Defense Commission, commander of the Korean People's Army and head of the ruling Worker's Party while his father remained as North Korea's "eternal president."

He faithfully carried out his father's policy of "military first," devoting much of the country's scarce resources to its troops—even as his people suffered from a prolonged famine—and built the world's fifth-largest military.

Kim also sought to build up the country's nuclear arms arsenal, which culminated in North Korea's first nuclear test explosion, an underground blast conducted in October 2006. Another test came in 2009, prompting U.N. sanctions.

Alarmed, regional leaders negotiated a disarmament-for-aid pact that the

North signed in 2007 and began implementing later that year.

However, the process continues to be stalled, even as diplomats work to restart negotiations.

North Korea, long hampered by sanctions and unable to feed its own people, is desperate for aid. Flooding in the 1990s that destroyed the largely mountainous country's arable land left millions hungry.

Following the famine, the number of North Koreans fleeing the country through China rose dramatically, with many telling tales of hunger, political persecution and rights abuses that officials in Pyongyang emphatically denied.

Kim often blamed the U.S. for his country's troubles and his regime routinely derides Washington-allied South Korea as a "puppet" of the Western superpower.

U.S. President George W. Bush, taking office in 2002, denounced North Korea as a member of an "axis of evil" that also included Iran and Iraq. He later described Kim as a "tyrant" who starved his people so he could build nuclear weapons.

"Look, Kim Jong Il is a danger-

ous person. He's a man who starves his people. He's got huge concentration camps. And ... there is concern about his capacity to deliver a nuclear weapon," Bush said in 2005.

Kim was an enigmatic leader. But defectors from North Korea describe him as an eloquent and tireless orator, primarily to the military units that form the base of his support.

The world's best glimpse of the man was in 2000, when the liberal South Korean government's conciliatory "sunshine" policy toward the North culminated in the first-ever summit between the two Koreas and followed with unprecedented inter-Korean cooperation.

A second summit was held in 2007 with South Korea's Roh Moo-hyun.

But the thaw in relations drew to a halt in early 2008 when conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office in Seoul pledging to come down hard on communist North Korea.

Disputing accounts that Kim was "peculiar," former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright characterized Kim as intelligent and well-informed, saying the two had wide-ranging discussions during her visits to Pyongyang when Bill Clinton was U.S. president.

"I found him very much on top of his brief," she said.

Kim cut a distinctive, if oft ridiculed, figure. Short and pudgy at 5-foot-3, he wore platform shoes and sported a permed bouffant. His trademark attire of jumpsuits and sunglasses was mocked in such films as "Team America: World Police," a movie populated by puppets that was released in 2004.

Kim was said to have cultivated wide interests, including professional basketball, cars and foreign films. He reportedly produced several North Korean films as well, mostly historical epics with an ideological tinge.

A South Korean film director claimed Kim even kidnapped him and his movie star wife in the late 1970s, spiriting them back to North Korea to make movies for him for a decade before they managed to escape from their North Korean agents during a trip to Austria.

Kim rarely traveled abroad and then only by train because of an alleged fear of flying, once heading all the way by luxury rail car to Moscow, indulging in his taste for fine food along the way.

One account of Kim's lavish lifestyle came from Konstantin Pulikovskiy, a former Russian presidential envoy who wrote the book "The Orient Express" about Kim's train trip through Russia in July and August 2001.

Pulikovsky, who accompanied the North Korean leader, said Kim's 16-car private train was stocked with crates of French wine. Live lobsters were delivered in advance to stations.

A Japanese cook later claimed he was Kim's personal sushi chef for a decade, writing that Kim had a wine cellar stocked with 10,000 bottles, and that, in addition to sushi, Kim ate shark's fin soup—a rare delicacy—weekly.

"His banquets often started at midnight and lasted until morning. The longest lasted for four days," the chef, who goes by the pseudonym Kenji Fujimoto, was quoted as saying.

Kim is believed to have curbed his indulgent ways in recent years and looked slimmer in more recent video footage aired by North Korea's state-run broadcaster.

Kim's marital status wasn't clear but he is believed to have married once and had at least three other companions. He had at least three sons with two women, as well as a daughter by a third.

His eldest son, Kim Jong Nam, 38, is believed to have fallen out of favor with his father after he was caught trying to enter Japan on a fake passport in 2001 saying he wanted to visit Disney's Tokyo resort.

His two other sons by another woman, Kim Jong Chul and Kim Jong Un, are in their 20s. Their mother reportedly died several years ago.



In this April 25, 2002 file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il claps from the balcony as soldiers salute him during a military parade, celebrating the foundation of the armed forces in Pyongyang, North Korea.



MCT
Among subcompact sedans, the 2012 Chevrolet Sonic's quiet cabin and stout exterior design combine with its relative enthusiasm for the road, especially the turbo, to push it above its competitors.

Chevy produces a sound subcompact

By David Undercoffler
LOS ANGELES TIMES

This may come as a surprise to some motorists, but Chevrolet, a company celebrating its 100th anniversary this year, has only now figured out how to make a good subcompact.

Just as frustrating that it took the company an entire century to bring us this new car called the Sonic is that it wasn't even a gradual effort.

The Sonic's predecessor, the Aveo, was so hastily conceived and executed, it was like the forgotten book report written on the bus to school. And the small Chevys before it are more noteworthy for the pockmarks of chronic failure than the few and negligible triumphs.

So thank the confluence of a post-bankruptcy General Motors Co. and the tightening of fuel economy regulations that forced the company to make a small car that people might actually want to spend money on.

But be careful how you spend that money, as it seems not all Sonics are created equal.

Like its competitors, which include Hyundai Motor Co.'s Accent and Ford Motor Co.'s Fiesta, the Sonic comes in both sedan and hatchback configurations.

The darling of the two styles is the sedan. It's better largely because it feels quieter and more refined than its spunkier hatchback sibling—and compares well even beyond this cheap-seats segment of vehicles. Its degree of quiet motoring is worthy of a larger and more expensive class.

The Sonic sedan also wears the tidy

proportions of a subcompact car better than the hatchback. Both Sonics are the same from the front doors forward; the look is chunky-handsome and offsets the car's diminutive nature.

But the Sonic hatchback's design is curt when viewed from the rear. Like an "Angry Bird" that was transmogrified into a little car, the five-door model has squat proportions that seem a bit off when compared with the more rakish yet ovoid dimensions of peers such as the Fiesta and Accent.

Those cars manage to look simply like a small car, rather than a cheap car. The same can't be said for the Sonic hatchback, especially with the standard 15-inch wheels.

Inside, the Sonic is a little inconsistent in layout but excellent in craftsmanship. The plastics are nicely textured to offset what could have been an otherwise cheap look. The buttons and switch gear on the center console are well-organized and provide an excellent tactile feedback when operated.

The seats, especially the heated leatherette units that come on the loaded \$18,555 Sonic LTZ sedan I tested, are nicely padded and bolstered. Interior space is about the same as in Hyundai's Accent and greater than what the Ford Fiesta offers. The only place things get tight is rear legroom, but only if the front and rear passengers are all 6 feet tall.

Although most of the cabin is laudable, the Sonic's oddly packaged instrument cluster became a focal point of ire during my time with the car.

The cluster is dominated by a large

analog tachometer (largely useless in Sonics with the automatic transmission), to the right of which sits a small digital cluster. Crammed into that smaller space is the speedometer, fuel gauge, compass, odometer, trip computer and gear indicator.

Chevy cites the design of a motorcycle's cluster as the inspiration, which frankly seems a bit silly. It's like designing a great laptop computer and then giving it an iPhone keyboard as "inspiration."

Next time use a car's layout as inspiration.

Returning to the list of advantages the Sonic sedan has over the hatchback, we have the icing on the cake: It's cheaper. The Sonic sedan starts at \$14,495, while the basic hatchback goes for \$15,395.

Every Sonic comes with a healthy complement of safety features that include 10 air bags, stability control, four-wheel anti-lock brakes (disc in the front, drum in the rear) and a tire pressure monitoring system.

Other features include the trip computer, power windows and locks, air conditioning, a solid stereo with CD, auxiliary jack and three months of free XM satellite radio, split folding rear seats and heated side-view mirrors.

Powering the base Sonics is a 1.8-liter, four-cylinder unit that makes 138 horsepower and 125 pound-feet of torque. It's a solid motor and does its job without drama or complaint, though gas mileage for Sonics with the base five-speed manual transmission is an unimpressive 26 miles per gallon in the city and 35 mpg

on the highway.

A six-speed automatic will run you about \$1,100 more and its mileage is worse, getting only 25 mpg in the city and 35 on the highway. The Sonic LTZ I tested had the automatic, and over 326 miles I averaged 26 mpg.

The transmission certainly tried to get the best mileage though, sometimes to a fault. Upshifts would come too soon and subsequent downshifts would lag until the last possible moment.

Buyers with a little more change in their pocket can spring for the optional turbocharged engine. An extra \$700 gets you a sedan or hatchback with a 1.4-liter, turbo four-cylinder unit. Horsepower stays the same at 138, but torque jumps 23 pound-feet to 148, giving you more mid-range power to play with when you need it.

This engine also gets better gas mileage, with the Environmental Protection Agency rating the six-speed manual transmission that comes with the turbo engine at 29 mpg in the city and 40 on the highway. Do yourself a favor and spring for this turbo option; more fun and better gas mileage is like bacon that reduces cholesterol.

A six-speed automatic will be available on the turbo next spring, and at the risk of having my car-guy membership revoked, I'd say consider waiting for that one. The manual that Chevy paired with the turbo just isn't fun to drive; the clutch has a high release point and the

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$14,495 (including destination charge)

Price, as tested: \$18,555

Powertrain: 1.8-liter, DOHC, inline four-cylinder engine; six-speed automatic transmission with manual shifting

Horsepower: 138 at 6,300 rpm

Torque: 125 pound-feet at 3,800 rpm

Curb weight: 2,721 pounds

Wheelbase: 99.4 inches

Overall length: 173.1 inches

EPA fuel economy: 25 mpg city/35 mpg highway

Final thoughts: Chevy's smallest sedan comes up big.

shifter is imprecise and sloppy.

Shifting issues aside, either Sonic handles the road well. The suspension is nicely tuned, the steering provides great feedback and the brakes are firm. The hatchback can't dance like a Ford Fiesta or Honda Fit, but it's certainly more lively than the Hyundai Accent.

Yet as an overall product, a means of pure conveyance, I'd still lean toward the Accent as the most complete hatchback in the segment. It may not shine in a particular category, but it just does everything well.

The conversation changes a bit when considering subcompact sedans. It's here that the Sonic's quiet cabin and stout exterior design combine with its relative enthusiasm for the road, especially the turbo, to push it above the Accent and Fiesta sedans.

Chevy finally has a tiny winner. And it only took a century.

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I checked my granddaughter's 2004 Corolla for a burned-out low-beam headlight, bulb no. 9006. The bulb was OK, but one side of the socket was scorched. I cleaned the socket and put in a new bulb, and it worked fine. A week later, the other headlight failed. Same problem: bulb OK, socket scorched on one side. Any idea what could cause this?

—F.G.

ANSWER: Heat generated at an electrical connection indicates the connection was faulty or overworked. Significant heat is also generated by the headlight filament, which makes its way to the headlight

Under The Hood: Burned-out headlights suggests overworked socket

bulb terminals, compounding the problem.

There are two possible reasons the socket may have been overworked: aftermarket over-wattage headlight bulbs, which are brighter and require greater electrical current, or excessive system voltage, if an alternator fault is causing charging voltage to exceed the normal 14 volts.

If there's any doubt about the origin of the bulbs, it may be a good idea to renew the remaining bulb with a fresh, name-brand bulb. Charging system voltage can be easily checked with a digital voltmeter, such as Sears Craftsman's model 82344, which costs about \$30 and is a great

Christmas gift. For reasons I can't fathom, headlight issues are one of the first symptoms to appear when charging voltage goes high. If the engine-running battery terminal voltage is above 15 volts, charging-system diagnosis is needed.

I believe it's an odd but a plausible coincidence both headlight sockets failed within such a narrow window of time. Upon research, I found a couple of similar issues with Corolla headlight sockets overheating, so they're apparently a bit skimpy or fragile. The socket's terminals may have been inadvertently stretched or damaged during a previous bulb replacement; aggressive

wiggling of the connector when unplugging would result in a poor connection. In either case, it'd be a good idea to renew both sockets with a high-temperature headlight socket, such as Auto Zone's Motor-mite/9006 bulb socket, about \$12. Soldering and shrink-wrapping the cut-and-splice wire connections is better than potentially troublesome crimp connectors.

Q: A friend and I were looking through the list of sensors on his new scanner, and we wondered what "STFT" was. I looked it up online and it seems to have something to do with how the fuel injectors are controlled. Can you help?

—Ethan Leonard

A: Of the many parameter IDs available from a scan tool, STFT (short-term fuel trim) and LTFT (long-term fuel trim) are among the most useful. These indicate the percentage of fuel correction called for by one or more exhaust oxygen sensors beyond what was originally computed. Based on readings from a handful of sensors, the powertrain control module computes and controls what it believes is the correct rate of fuel injector flow. Should the oxygen sensors indicate less than perfect post-combustion oxygen levels, future fuel injector commands are "trimmed" to make them right. A positive percentage or decimal value above

1.0 indicates a rich correction—that is, more fuel is added via lengthened injector pulses—and a negative percentage or decimal value below 1.0 indicates a lean correction, which gives less fuel via shorter pulses.

Fuel trim values are a very useful tool when diagnosing engine performance and emission problems. When excessive correction is required, the powertrain control module will command an illuminated check engine light and store the appropriate diagnostic trouble code.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Sandy Beach Homes Grand Opening Celebration

PHOTO By CLARISSA V. DAVID



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, fourth from left; Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, sixth from left; Sandy Beach Homes LLC members Jay Jones, third from left; and Juan Carlos Benitez, right; lead other members of the project developer and other government officials in the ribbon cutting that marked the grand opening of Sandy Beach Homes on Dec. 16.



Black Micro Corp. senior vice president and general manager Leonard Kaae, right, presents the building key to Triple J Enterprises senior vice president Jay Jones.



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, left, receives the building key from Black Micro Corp. senior vice president and general manager Leonard Kaae, right, as Triple J Enterprises senior vice president Jay Jones, center, looks on.



Sandy Beach Homes LLC member Juan Carlos Benitez delivers his remarks at the grand opening program for Sandy Beach Homes last Friday.



Guests enjoy the refreshments offered at one of the housing units of Sandy Beach Homes during the grand opening program last Friday.

From left, Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Joshua T. Sasamoto, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Sandy Beach Homes LLC member Juan Carlos Benitez, and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial listen to the speeches, during the Sandy Beach Homes grand opening program on Dec. 16.

In Loving Memory of
† Pedro Limes Norita
 May 17, 1961 – December 14, 2011

In his new life, he now joins his:
 Parents: Pedro N. Norita and Victorina L. Norita
 Parents In-Laws: Jesus Betmag and Mariana G. Rutinag
 Brothers: Manuel L. Norita and David L. Norita
 In-Laws: Mathias D. Mahora and Estella I. Norita

He will be greatly missed by his:
 Wife: Linda Ruweet Norita
Children: Manuel R. Norita, Mark Anthony Norita, Kanice R. Norita, David R. Norita, Ramon R./Roselina Lee-gruw Norita (Pearly)

Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws: †Manuel L. & †Estella I. Norita (Jeffrey/Emmy and children, Jason, Jesus, Florencia/David Cypriano and daughter); Virginia N. Mahora (Esther, Al/Leslie and children, Paula/Jonas and children, Mathias and children); Vicente L. & Sylvester C. Norita (Zeniva, Benjamin, Shauna, Victorino, Rufina, Richard & Monica); Donald L. Norita (Gabby C. Norita); Remedio L. Norita (Leonard, Anna & Erwin Jr.); Consolacion N. & Alvin C. Cepeda (Arrian/Robert and children, Victoria, Jaedyn, Alvonny & Segundo); Dina Ellen N. & Nolas N. Kaliga (Travis Jude)

He is additionally survived by his numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, extended families & friends.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00p.m. at Santa Remedio Church in Tanapag.

On Thursday, December 22, 2011 his body will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to Santa Remedio Church in Tanapag at 7:30 a.m. for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed immediately by interment service at the Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers will be greatly appreciated

*Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase
 Ginen I Familia*

Death & Funeral Announcement
Francis Kin Wong
 March 10, 1955 – December 16, 2011

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
 Wife: Xu Qiong Wong
 First Wife: Zhang Ping Wong
 Son: Eddie Wong

This is to inform the relatives and friends that Francis Kin Wong has passed away on December 16, 2011 at the Commonwealth Health Center in Saipan.

On Thursday, December 22, 2011 viewing and last respects will be held at the CHC Morgue from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. His body will be immediately escorted to Tanapag Public Cemetery for burial service.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You

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Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol

Tuesday 7:15 9:55
Wednesday 4:15 7:15

Tom Cruise, Jeremy Renner
Spy film, Action • Rated PG 13



The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo

Tuesday 7:00 10:00
Wednesday 4:00 7:00

Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara
Thriller • Rated R

COMING SOON The Adventures of TINTIN

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST



Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows

Tuesday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Wednesday 4:05 7:05

Robert Downey, Jr. Jude Law
Action, Mystery • Rated PG 13



Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked

Tuesday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Wednesday 4:20 7:20

Jason Lee
Children's/family • Rated G



New Year's Eve

Tuesday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Wednesday 4:25 7:25

Halle Berry, Robert De Niro, Ashton Kutcher
Comedy drama • Rated PG13



Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

Tuesday 4:10 7:10 9:30
Wednesday 4:10 7:10

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Arthur Christmas

Tuesday 4:30 7:30

James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie
Comedy
Rated PG



The Sitter

Tuesday 4:15

Jonah Hill, Sam Rockwell,
Comedy
Rated R



Jack and Jill

Tuesday 9:50

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes
Comedy
Rated PG



Happy Feet Two

Tuesday 4:00

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams
Children's
Rated PG

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Downey dips, 'Sherlock' slips with \$40M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sherlock Holmes is facing his worst enemy: declining crowds at theaters as this year's domestic movie attendance dips to the lowest in 16 years.

Robert Downey Jr.'s sequel "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" debuted on top with a \$40 million weekend, off 36 percent from the first installment's \$62.3 million opening two years ago, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The first movie opened over Christmas weekend, one of the busiest times for movie theaters. Distributor Warner Bros. predicts the "Holmes" sequel, which pits Downey's detective against archrival Professor Moriarty, will make up the lost ground over the holidays.

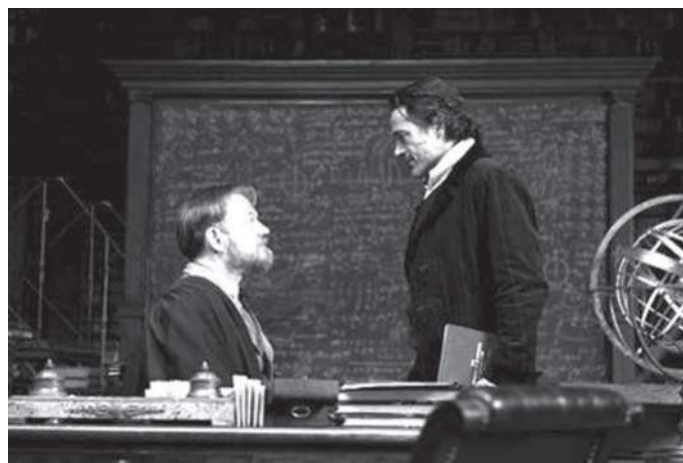
"The pattern is different," said Dan Fellman, the studio's head of distribution. "What you can put in the bank those nine days before the official Christmas play time, that's the difference between our opening with a bigger number on Christmas day and opening early this time. At the end of the holiday period, we should be in the same place."

The "Holmes" sequel opened in six overseas markets, including the detective's native Britain, and took in \$14.7 million to bring its worldwide total to \$54.7 million.

After two previous weekends that were Hollywood's worst of the year, overall business was down again, about 12 percent lower than the same weekend in 2010 as Hollywood struggles to interest audiences in its big year-end releases.

Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com, estimated that the number of tickets sold domestically in 2011 will come in below 1.3 billion.

That would be the lowest attendance since 1995, when admissions totaled 1.26 billion. Domestic attendance in modern times peaked at 1.6 billion in 2002 and has been on a gener-



In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Jared Harris portraying Professor James Moriarty, left, and Robert Downey Jr., portraying Sherlock Holmes, are shown in a scene from "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows." Moriarty, who has loomed as the grandfather of all super-villains, is played with cool, quiet, chilling detachment by Jared Harris.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows," \$40 million (\$14.7 million international).
2. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked," \$23.5 million (\$14.5 million international).
3. "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol," \$13 million (\$68.2 million international).
4. "New Year's Eve," \$7.4 million.
5. "The Sitter," \$4.4 million.
6. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1," \$4.3 million.
7. "Young Adult," \$3.7 million.
8. "Hugo," \$3.63 million.
9. "Arthur Christmas," \$3.6 million (\$9.7 million international).
10. "The Muppets," \$3.5 million (\$600,000 international).

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol," \$68.2 million.
2. "Puss in Boots," \$30.4 million.
3. "Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows," \$14.7 million.
4. "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked," \$14.5 million.
5. "Arthur Christmas," \$9.7 million.
6. "New Year's Eve," \$8.9 million.
7. "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1," \$8.1 million.
8. "Happy Feet Two," \$4.4 million.
9. "In Time," \$3.3 million.
10. "Rubbeldiekatz," \$3.1 million.

CNN star Piers Morgan faces questions over past

LONDON (AP)—CNN star Piers Morgan may be known to Americans as an empathetic English interviewer, but it's his past at the heart of Britain's troubled tabloid newspaper world that is being trotted out before the cameras this week.

The often colorful and sometimes controversial story of Morgan's rise to the top will be revisited Tuesday, when the former editor appears by videolink at a judge-led inquiry into the ethics and practices of Britain's scandal-tarred press.

His appearance has been widely anticipated—not least

because of the 46-year-old's irreverent flippancy.

"So heartwarming that everyone in U.K.'s missing me so much they want me to come home," he joked earlier this year amid demands he return to give evidence to the inquiry, set up by Prime Minister David Cameron following the disclosure that the now-defunct News of the World tabloid had for years illegally eavesdropped on the voice mail messages of public figures.

Actors Hugh Grant and Sienna Miller, Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling and singer Charlotte Church are among

ally decline since.

"These low-attendance numbers are taking the gas out of the tank," Dergarabedian said. "All the momentum we had kind of came to a dead stop."

The 20th Century Fox family sequel "Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked" did even worse than "Holmes." "Chipwrecked" opened at No. 2 with \$23.5 million, about half the business the first two "Chipmunks" movies did on their debut weekends.

The studio had expected a bigger debut, but with schools shutting down for the holidays, Fox executives hope business will pick up.

"We are battling a marketplace issue right now," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for 20th Century Fox. "We cannot make light of that. However, we have a very satisfying, playable movie and the only G-rated movie for Christmas. So as kids get out this week, this is going to help position it for a successful run."

"Chipwrecked" added \$14.5 million in 38 overseas markets, bringing its worldwide total to \$38 million.

Tom Cruise and Paramount had a spot of good news. Their action sequel "Mission: Impossible—Ghost Protocol" got off to a healthy start at No. 3 with a \$13 million weekend playing exclusively at huge-screen IMAX theaters and some other large-format cinemas.

"Ghost Protocol" goes into general release Wednesday.

The movie already has opened in 36 overseas markets, where it pulled in \$68.2 million, putting its global haul at more than \$80 million.

With critics praising the movie's spectacular action sequences, "Ghost Protocol" may restore the hitmaker status of Cruise, whose audience became disenchanted with odd antics in the star's personal life five or six years ago.

"I would think any of that is way in the past," said Don Harris, head of distribution at Paramount, which took the unusual step of going early in huge-screen cinemas to build buzz for the general release.

"The plan was always to put the movie out into the best presentation theaters in North America," Harris said.

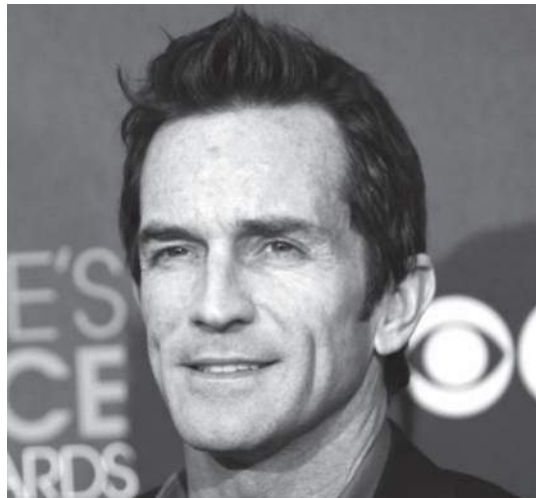
those who have given evidence about press abuse, while executives and lawyers for Murdoch's News Corp. have defended the newspaper.

Morgan shot to national prominence when he was picked by Murdoch to run the News of the World at age 28. Under his tenure the tabloid exposed actor Hugh Grant's liaison with Hollywood prostitute Divine Brown and Princess Diana's late-night phone calls to married art dealer Oliver Hoare. It wasn't all down to good reporting: Morgan has acknowledged he kept his edge in part through bribes paid to informants on rival titles.



CNN Anchor and journalist Piers Morgan arrives at the Fifth Annual CNN Heroes: All-Star Tribute in Los Angeles on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011.

Med student Clarke wins 'Survivor: South Pacific'



AP
In this Jan. 6, 2010 file photo, Jeff Probst, host of the reality competition series "Survivor," arrives at the People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sophie Clarke slayed the competition on "Survivor: South Pacific."

The brainy 22-year-old medical student from Willsboro, N.Y., overcame 39-year-old "Survivor" veteran Benjamin "Coach" Wade of Susanville, Calif., and 26-year-old high school baseball coach Albert Destrade of Plantation, Fla., to win the CBS reality competition's \$1 million grand prize Sunday. Clarke earned six votes from the nine-person jury of former players.

"I think I had my finger on the pulse of the game the whole time," said Clarke after it was announced she won.

Clarke secured her place among the final three contestants on the 23rd edition of "Survivor" by forging a strong alliance from the outset and winning three individual immunity challenges, including the final physical competition, which ousted from the 39-day sur-

vival contest seasoned 30-year-old "Survivor" veteran Oscar "Ozzy" Lusth of Venice, Calif.

Wade, who previously competed on the "Tocantins" and "Heroes vs. Villains" editions, and Lusth, who was featured on the "Cook Islands" and "Micronesia" editions, led opposing tribes at the game's start, forming strong alliances with new contestants, though Lusth spent most of the game's second half on Redemption Island battling fellow voted-off castaways.

Prince Harry helps friend after London mugging

LONDON (AP)—Royal officials say Prince Harry showed up at a London police station to help a friend who had been mugged.

Harry's Clarence House office says the 27-year-old prince went to support a friend who was reporting a robbery.

British media say Thomas van Straubenzee was robbed in a south London street while on the phone with Harry, who raced across the city to help. When he could not find Van Straubenzee, Harry went to the local police station, where he gave a witness statement.

Police said a mobile phone was recovered after the Nov. 30 robbery. A suspect has been arrested and bailed.

Harry, an army helicopter pilot, recently returned from a two-month training exercise in the United States.

Actor Frazer, Capt. McNeil on 'Kojak,' dies in NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Veteran film and television actor Dan Frazer, best known for his role as Captain Frank McNeil on the 1970s television series "Kojak," has died in New York. He was 90.

Frazer's daughter, Susanna Frazer, said Sunday her father died of cardiac arrest Dec. 16 at his home in Manhattan. She described him as a "very truthful, naturalistic actor."

Frazer started playing character roles in various television series and films in the 1950s. His films include "Cleopatra Jones," "Take the Money and Run," "Gideon's Trumpet" and "Deconstructing Harry." Besides "Kojak," Frazer's television appearances include "Car 54, Where Are You," "Route 66," "Barney Miller" and "Law & Order."

He was a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and an adviser to The Workshop Theatre Co.

Husband who's a great dad has little to give to his wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 13 years to a good guy who is a great dad. We have two boys, ages 9 and 11. The problem is, we don't communicate. We hardly have sex and we don't get along at all.

I feel like I have sacrificed physical and emotional intimacy so my kids can have both parents in their lives full-time. When I think of writing down my husband's attributes, all

I can think of is that he's a good dad, good worker and helps out around the house. But I have no problem coming up with a list of bad things.

Am I selfish? Should I just smother my emotions and go on like I have been all these years?

UNFULFILLED IN GEORGIA

DEAR UNFULFILLED: It's not selfish to want emotional and physical intimacy with another person. It's normal, and your husband may miss it, too.

There's an alternative to ending your marriage, and that is fighting to save it. It would require effort from both of you and the services of a licensed marriage counselor. However, if it works, I know you'll thank me. And if it doesn't, at least you will know you tried. Why not suggest to your husband that you make it your first New Year's resolution?

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Right now I'm so tired I can hardly write this letter asking for the advice I need. I work the 11 p.m.-7 a.m. shift at a prison. Because I'm home during the day, everyone assumes I am available to socialize. How do I get through to them that I sleep during the day and work at night? A lot of people—including my husband—will say to me, "What? You're not up YET?" when I have been asleep for only three hours.

I have thought about calling these people from work at 2 a.m. asking, "Aren't you up YET?" Then they might get the picture. What do you think?

WORKING A 40-HOUR WEEK AT AGE 73

DEAR WORKING: The insensitivity of the folks in your circle is surprising. And as for your husband, did you marry someone who is sadistic or selfish? Tell him that if he wants to enjoy the benefits of your paycheck, he will have to make sure you get enough sleep to earn one.

When people call or come by and disturb your rest, tell them plainly you do not want to be disturbed before a certain time. Then turn off your phone, let callers leave messages on your voicemail and return them when you're fully awake. As to those who still drop by—by all means call them at 2 a.m.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Christmas is fast approaching. Our family get-together consists of a crazy celebration where we draw numbers and choose a gift in numerical order. If we want, we can choose a gift that someone already has.

I'd like your opinion on re-gifting. Each year some family members just bring the gift they received last year, rewrapped. I think if someone doesn't care enough to shop for a \$20 gift for a family exchange, it takes away from the idea of gift-giving. What do you think?

JIM IN AMARILLO, TEXAS

DEAR JIM: I think you should find your sense of humor where you misplaced it, and stop looking a gift horse in the mouth. The kind of party you describe is done for laughs, and none of the gifts is selected with one specific person in mind if it can be claimed by another.

■■■

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Tonight at sundown the eight days of Hanukkah begin. Happy Hanukkah, everyone! May all of you enjoy a joyous festival of lights.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Film details Jerry Lewis' 'Method to the Madness'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gregg Barson is a documentarian, not a comedian. But when Jerry Lewis let him know that more than a dozen people were waiting in line to tell his story, Barson offered a persuasive punch line.

"Yeah, but they're not me," was Barson's comeback, followed by a momentary quiver of fear that he'd gone too far with the veteran star.

"He said, 'I like that. You know why? Because you remind me of me,'" Barson recalled. That chutzpah-fueled exchange led to "Method to the Madness of Jerry Lewis," debuting 8 p.m. EST Saturday on Encore. Other airings include 11:30 a.m. EST Sunday and 8 p.m. EST Tuesday.

The film focuses on what makes the 85-year-old—and still working—Lewis tick as a performer and filmmaker. Those looking for dish on his family life or breakup with stage and screen partner Dean Martin or abrupt departure from the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon he'd nurtured for nearly five decades won't find it here.

Barson, who describes himself as being "in heaven" whenever he caught a Lewis film on TV as a youngster, said his intent was to focus on Lewis' career from vaudeville on and his contributions to comedy and movies.

Younger people without exposure to Lewis' work likely consider him as "that telethon guy. Hopefully, the film will open their eyes as opposed to thinking he did one thing one day a year," Barson said.

During more than three years of filming, Barson had near-complete access as he followed Lewis from his yacht in San Diego to his home in Las Vegas to concert dates and to the Cannes Film Festival in France, the country that idolizes Lewis as a cinematic genius.

He was good company, Barson said. "He's always up, funny and playful. ... The sparkle, he didn't put in on for the camera. He's being real." "Method to the Madness," which opens with Jerry Seinfeld, Eddie Murphy and other comedians anointing Lewis as comedy royalty, is an unabashed val-

entine. It is also a reminder that Lewis inspired rock-star levels of fan devotion, and of how impressively "The Bellboy" (1960) and many other films starring and written and directed by Lewis ruled the box office.

Barson, who made the well-received Phyllis Diller documentary "Goodnight, We Love You," sees parallels between Diller and Lewis, including their work ethic.

"She was 84 when she retired, and he's 85 and still working. They never rest on their laurels," Barson said. "They still care. They're not phoning it in."

And that, he said, is part of Lewis' method: Every aspect of his performance is planned.

"As Eddie Murphy says (in the film), slapstick looks simple but the reason it's been around so long is how well thought out it is," Barson said.

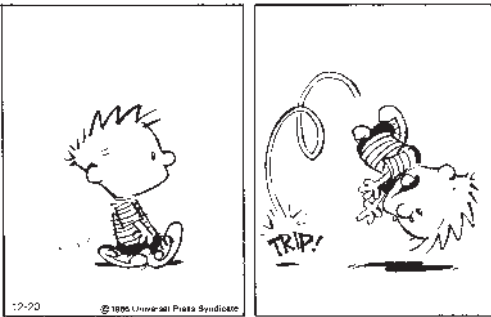
Lewis is pleased with the film. And his health is good, according to the filmmaker, who spills one appropriately quirky personal secret on his subject: "He drinks a lot of orange soda. Maybe that's the fountain of youth."



AP
In this Dec. 7, 2011 photo released by Starz, director John Landis, left, and comedian Jerry Lewis pose after the Encore Original premiere of "Method to the Madness of Jerry Lewis" in Los Angeles.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home

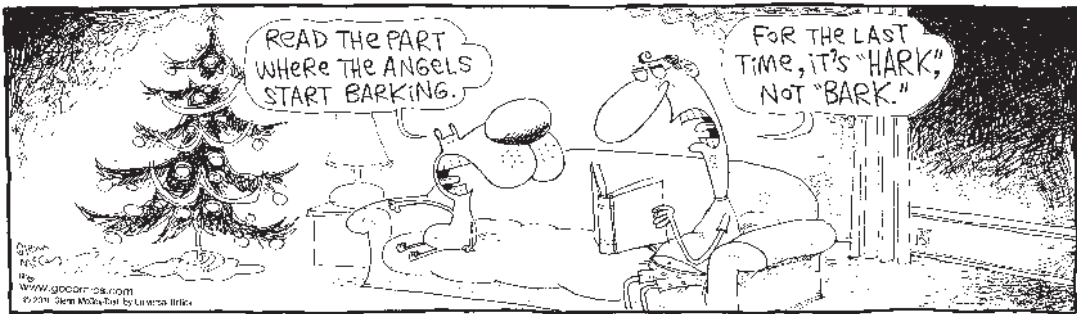


By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Grand tale 5 Advantage 9 Dine 12 Isinglass 13 Abound 14 Paid athlete 15 Dramatic public display 17 Id counter-part 18 Conversation 19 Indy car, e.g. 21 Fill the tank 24 Neighbor of Java 25 Tears 26 T-bars, e.g. 30 Citric beverage 31 Beg 32 A Gershwin brother 33 Parts of Sunday's newspaper

DOWN 1 Type measures 2 Spot on a 3 Lemieux milieu 4 Desert plant 5 Catchall abbr. 6 52 cards 7 Hair goop 8 Green stone 9 Gave details 10 Incite 11 Indigent 16 Spigot 20 "The Greatest" 21 Mardi — 22 Staffer 23 Samples 24 Prejudice 26 — gin fizz 27 "Jeopardy!" legend 28 Jennings 29 Lip 31 Conifer exudation 34 Cruise or Selleck 35 Broad-band ancestor 37 Dallas sch. 38 Morbid style of rock music 39 Concept 40 Welsh emblem 41 Pinnacle 44 — Beta Kappa 45 Literary collection 46 — for tat 47 Biblical verb ending

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterdays answer 12-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonah Hill, 28; David Cook, 29; Nicole de Boer, 41; Joel Gretsch, 48.

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters will be your downfall. Quickly deal with whatever setbacks you face. You don't want to close the year with personal debts hanging over your head. Make a decision that will clear your mind of stress, enabling you to plan for a better future. Clear a passageway to make necessary transitions easier. Your numbers are 5, 11, 16, 27, 29, 36, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let anyone use a sob story to talk you into something or out of money. Size up whatever situation you face and do what works best for you. Stay in control, even if someone challenges you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Try to please others. The gesture you make, no matter how small, will enhance your reputation and pave the way for better times ahead. You don't have to let this time of the year be costly. Prudence will be praised.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Use your charm, intellect and know-how to grab attention, and you will meet someone interested in sharing an idea, expense or plan. Changing your perspective of someone will lead to a closer connection. Love is highlighted.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Shop for someone you want to please. A gift that comes from the heart will send an undeniable message. Make plans that will help you get ahead professionally. Additional skills and

knowledge will play in your favor. Set up interviews.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out with friends or colleagues and enjoy the festive season. Make plans for the end-of-year celebrations. Love is in the stars, and a change in the way you view someone is likely to determine your next personal move. Follow your heart.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of pressing business and personal financial matters. Make a decision regarding your home and family. Not everyone will be happy with your choice, but you have to do what's best for you. A financial gain is apparent.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your emotions will be stifled due to a financial cost you have to endure. Indecisiveness will cost you even more. Size up your situation and ask for help if it's required. Expect someone you love to overreact or overindulge.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep close tabs on your home and finances. You must balance the pros and cons of any change heading your way. The more knowledge you gather, the easier it will be to make the right decision. Don't go overboard to impress someone.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Help out, unless it will put you in jeopardy emotionally or financially. A positive change at home will ease stress. Enjoy a little festive cheer with your peers. Networking will pay off. An opportunity is heading your way.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't put pressure on friends, relatives or neighbors if you want to avoid opposition. You can make a good financial move if you use your talent and skills to the best of your abilities. Strategy and marketing will pay off.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let love cost you financially or emotionally. Make choices based on truth as well as facts and figures. Focus on being the best you can be and project an honest, straightforward approach when dealing with others.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your heart dictate what you should do. A serious commitment can be made. Don't hesitate to say what's on your mind or to discuss the possibilities the new year holds. Simplicity and moderation will be key to your success.

Birthday Baby: You are intense, shrewd and serious. You are driven, intuitive and intelligent.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvise.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

12/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterdays SUDOKU Answer

3	2	9	8	6	7	4	1	5
1	8	6	4	9	5	2	3	7
4	5	7	3	1	2	6	8	9
7	1	5	9	2	3	8	6	4
8	3	2	7	4	6	5	9	1
9	6	4	5	8	1	7	2	3
6	7	8	1	3	4	9	5	2
2	4	3	6	5	9	1	7	8
5	9	1	2	7	8	3	4	6

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

Solution: 6 letters

M W S T R A P O S I T I V E S
E O R P R I N T E D A A F L T
S R D I H S I T I R B I O L R
I D I E T L O V E L L G E O E
A S G P E E E V E A A L G O N
R T N O S R E E P N U A A C G
S N I H S N F D O O G T S O T
N E N E T E I I S I H S S D H
O M A S G S S R T T Y O E E I
I E E A T S M E A N N M V S
T T M A E O U R V F E L A E
O I N R R Q G D S I H O A R L
M C P A I N E Z I T I C C B I
E X L N E G A R U O C I S U M
E E U N I T N O C M O T T O S

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Brave, British, Calm, Citizen, Code, Continue, Cool, Courage, Distance, Diverse, Emotions, Events, Excitement, Expression, Feel, Focus, Freedom, Hope, Image, Inspire, Laugh, Life, Love, Meaning, Message, Morale, Motivational, Motto, Music, Nostalgia, Part, Positive, Posters, Printed, Raise, Read, Slogan, Smiles, Strength, Theme, Unique, Words, Write
Yesterdays Answer: Hip Hop
To receive this puzzle for free, please email: eugenialast@comcast.net or call: 1-800-445-5159. Offer good while supplies last. © 2011 Universal Uclick. All rights reserved.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Chiefs end Packers' perfect season

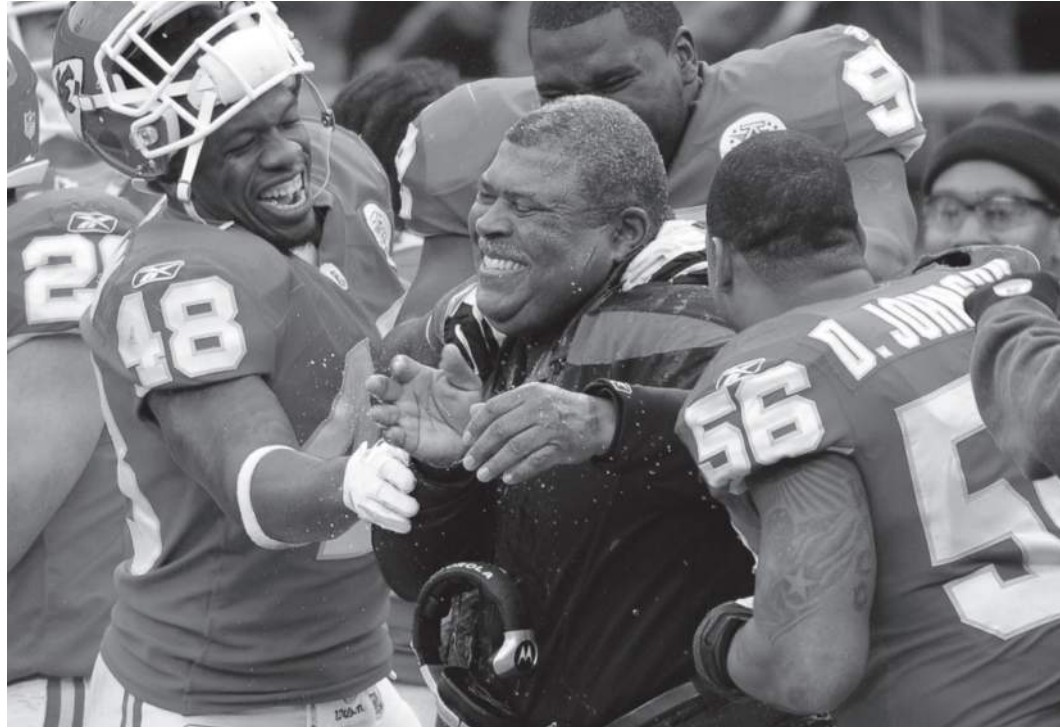


KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)—The Green Bay Packers' perfect NFL season came to a crashing halt on Sunday against the beleaguered Kansas City Chiefs, who rallied behind interim coach Romeo Crennel and new quarterback Kyle Orton to a shocking 19-14 victory.

Orton finished 23 of 31 for 299 yards in his first start for the Chiefs (6-8), who fired coach Todd Haley last Monday after the team had lost five of its last six games.

But behind an inspired performance by the defense, four field goals by Ryan Succop and Jackie Battle's short touchdown run with 4:53 left in the game, Kansas City handed the Packers (13-1) their first loss since Dec. 19, 2010, at New England. The Packers had won 19 straight games in the past year, including the Super Bowl.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers was just 17 of 35 for 235 yards and a touchdown, and he also scampered eight yards for another touchdown with 2:12 left in the game. But the Packers were unable to recover the onside kick, and the Chiefs picked up a couple of first downs to secure the victory.



Kansas City Chiefs interim coach Romeo Crennel celebrates with his team at the end of an NFL football game against the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, in Kansas City, Mo.

Colts 27, Titans 13

In Indianapolis, Dan Orlovsky threw a touchdown pass and the key block on an 80-yard TD run to lead the Colts to their first win of the season.

Indianapolis (1-13) avoided becoming the second team in NFL history to go 0-16.

Quarterback Matt Hasselbeck was picked off twice and Chris Johnson rushed for only 55 yards for Tennessee (7-7).

Orlovsky gave the Colts a 10-6 lead with an 18-yard TD pass to Reggie Wayne in the third quarter, and Jacob Lacey made it 17-6 with a 32-yard interception return for a TD.

Jake Locker got the Titans within 20-13 with a TD pass with 3:43 to go, but on the next play, Orlovsky threw a block that gave Donald Brown on open lane to sprint 80 yards to seal the win.

Chargers 34, Ravens 14

In San Diego, Philip Rivers threw for one score and reached the 4,000-yard mark for the fourth straight season as the Chargers kept their slim postseason hopes alive with a victory over playoff-bound Baltimore.

Ryan Mathews also ran for two scores and hit 1,000 yards rushing for the Chargers (7-7), who have won three straight after a six-game losing streak.

San Diego is now level with Oakland and a game behind Denver in the AFC West division, with two to play.

The Ravens (10-4) had their four-game winning streak broken, but clinched a playoff berth earlier in the day thanks to losses by the New York Jets, Oakland and Tennessee.

Eagles 45, Jets 19

In Philadelphia, LeSean McCoy ran for three touchdowns to set two team records as the Eagles routed the Jets to stay alive in the NFC East division race.

Michael Vick threw for 274 yards and a touchdown and also ran for a score in his second game back after missing three games with broken ribs.

The Eagles (6-8) have won two straight for just the second time this season and still have a chance to repeat as NFC East champions, trailing Dallas by two games and the New York Giants by one.

The loss ended a three-game winning streak for the Jets (8-6).

Seahawks 38, Bears 14

In Chicago, Red Bryant returned an interception 20 yards for the go-ahead TD as Seattle kept its faint playoff hopes alive.

Chicago quarterback Caleb Hanie was hit hard on the play by K.J. Wright and threw the ball right into Bryant's arms as Seattle (7-7) scored two TDs in a 50-second span early in the third quarter.

Brandon Browner returned another interception 42 yards for a TD in the final quarter for the Seahawks. Marshawn Lynch added two touchdown runs for Seattle.

Chicago (7-7) lost its fourth straight.

Saints 42, Vikings 20

In Minneapolis, Drew Brees threw for 412 yards and five touchdowns to lead New Orleans to its sixth win in a row.

Brees completed 32 of 40 passes to help the Saints (11-3) overcome a sloppy start and stay two games ahead of Atlanta in the NFC South division.

Brees is 304 yards away from breaking Dan Marino's single-season record for passing yards, with two games to play.

Adrian Peterson rushed for 60 yards in his return from a three-game absence for the Vikings (2-12).

Redskins 23, Giants 10

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Rex Grossman threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Santana Moss as Washington got just its second win in its last 10 games.

Darrel Young also scored on a 6-yard run after one of three interceptions by the Redskins (5-9) and Graham Gano kicked three field goals.

The loss knocked the Giants (7-7) out of first place in the NFC East division. Dallas is now on top by a game with two to go, including one with Giants on the final weekend of the season.

Patriots 41, Broncos 23

In Denver, Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score as New England clinched a playoff berth.

The Patriots (11-3) won their sixth straight game and another AFC East division title by bouncing back from an awful first quarter in which they were outgained on the ground 167 yards to 4.

Brady was 23 of 34 for 320 yards to beat the Broncos for just the second time in eight career starts.

Tim Tebow was 11 of 22 for 194 yards and ran for 93 more, but he was unable to deliver another dramatic comeback for the Broncos (8-6), who had won four straight after trailing in the fourth quarter.

Panthers 28, Texans 13

In Houston, Cam Newton threw two touchdown passes and DeAngelo Williams ran for a score as Carolina ended Houston's seven-game winning streak.

Newton completed 13 of 23 passes for 149 yards, outplaying opposing Houston's rookie quarterback, T.J. Yates.

The Panthers (5-9) built a 21-0 halftime lead, then ended Houston's second-half rally when linebacker James Anderson intercepted Yates in the end zone midway through the fourth quarter.

The Texans (10-4) are playing for home-field advantage in the playoffs after clinching the AFC South division last weekend.

Lions 28, Raiders 27

In Oakland, California, Matthew Stafford threw a 6-yard TD pass to Calvin Johnson with 39 seconds remaining to cap a 98-yard scoring drive as Detroit rallied from 13 points down in the fourth quarter to stun the Raiders.

The win wasn't sealed until Ndamukong Suh blocked Sebastian Janikowski's 65-yard field goal attempt on the final play in Suh's first game back from a two-game suspension.

The Raiders (7-7) appeared in control when Aaron Curry returned a fumble 6 yards for a TD to make it 27-14 with 7:47 remaining.

But Stafford led two late scoring drives to give the Lions (9-5) a two-game lead in the NFC wild-card playoff race.

Dolphins 30, Bills 23

In Orchard Park, New York, Reggie Bush ran for a career-best 203 yards, including a 76-yard TD run, to lead Miami to victory in interim coach Todd Bowles' first game.

Matt Moore also threw two touchdowns passes and Vontae Davis had two of Miami's three interceptions.

Bowles replaced the fired Tony Sparano last Monday. Miami (5-9) has won five of its last seven games.

The Bills (5-9) have lost seven straight and could finish last in the AFC East division for the fourth straight year. Ryan Fitzpatrick finished 31 of 47 for 316 yards and a TD.

Bengals 20, Rams 13

In St. Louis, rookie A.J. Green had six catches and topped 1,000 yards for the season as Cincinnati rallied to keep alive its hopes of a wild-card playoff spot.

Brandon Tate's 56-yard punt return set up Bernard Scott's go-ahead touchdown run late in the third quarter and Cedric Benson added a short scoring run in the fourth for the Bengals (8-6), who won for just the second time in six games.

Green has 1,006 yards receiving, leaving him 3 shy of Cris Collinsworth's team rookie record, set in 1981.

Kellen Clemens was 25 for 36 for 229 and one touchdown for the Rams (2-12), who have lost five in a row.

Cardinals 20, Browns 17

In Glendale, Arizona, John Skelton threw a 32-yard pass to Larry Fitzgerald to set up Jay Feely's winning field goal as Arizona got its third overtime win in seven games.

Arizona (7-7), winner of six of its last seven, trailed 17-7 entering the fourth quarter. The Cardinals have been behind in the second half in all six of their recent victories.

Both teams were without their starting quarterbacks because of concussions. Skelton, playing in relief of Kevin Kolb, completed 28 of 36 for 313 yards with a touchdown and interception.

Seneca Wallace, starting for Colt McCoy for the Browns (4-10), was 18 of 31 for 226 yards.

Colts say Manning would not play, but is throwing

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Colts will have to win their last two games the same way they tried to win their first 14—without Peyton Manning.

Minutes after the previously winless Colts got their first win, 27-13 over Tennessee, team vice chairman Bill Polian said the four-time league MVP will not play this season though he has begun throwing to teammates at the team complex.

The comments came in a rare, five-paragraph postgame statement Polian made from the podium. He did not take questions.

"It was determined by the doctors that there was no chance he (Manning) would play this year," Polian said, referring to a Thursday meeting. "His rehabilitation has not come far enough to make it prudent for him to step on the field in game action. He may practice in some very scripted and circumscribed circumstances if he wishes. That's entirely up to him."

Apparently, Manning is already doing that.

Polian confirmed that the four-time league MVP threw in pads and a helmet after Wednesday's full practice ended. The session included running back Joseph Addai, center Jeff Saturday, receiver Anthony Gonzalez and a receiver from the practice squad.

There were rumors all week that Manning had started throwing with teammates, but players and coaches repeatedly said there was nothing new in Manning's workout regimen. On Sunday's pregame show, Fox Sports reported that Manning had thrown to receivers and running backs this week and that Manning still hoped to play this season.

He has practiced sparingly since having neck surgery in May. The Colts thought Manning would be ready to play when training camp opened and again when the regular-season started, but the recovery took far longer than expected. He was activated before the regular-season opener, but with the compressed nerve still causing weakness in Manning's throwing arm, he opted for a more invasive fusion. That surgery took place Sept. 8.

On Dec. 1, doctors announced the fusion had healed firmly and that Manning could increase the intensity and length of his workouts.

He is. "Wednesday, after we finished our full team practice, Peyton went through a prescribed rehabilitation session, which consisted of about 30 throws and seven or eight handoffs," Polian said. "His throws were scripted at his request, meaning that he made specific throws with respect to the kinds of plays he would run in a ballgame. The reason for that is because the strength and conditioning folks and the therapy folks felt that was the best way to ramp up the muscle use."

Polian denied breaking any league rules by not disclosing Manning's workouts on the weekly practice reports, which require teams to provide information about each player's participation.

Because the workouts occurred after practice, Polian said the team did not violate the league rules and that the team taped that workout, which was attended by Polian and coach Jim Caldwell.

Team officials have kept Manning on the active roster in hopes that he could practice in December.

Polian said he does not expect Manning to throw again before Thursday's home finale against Houston.

Davis decides to sign with Knicks

By **SAM AMICK**
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

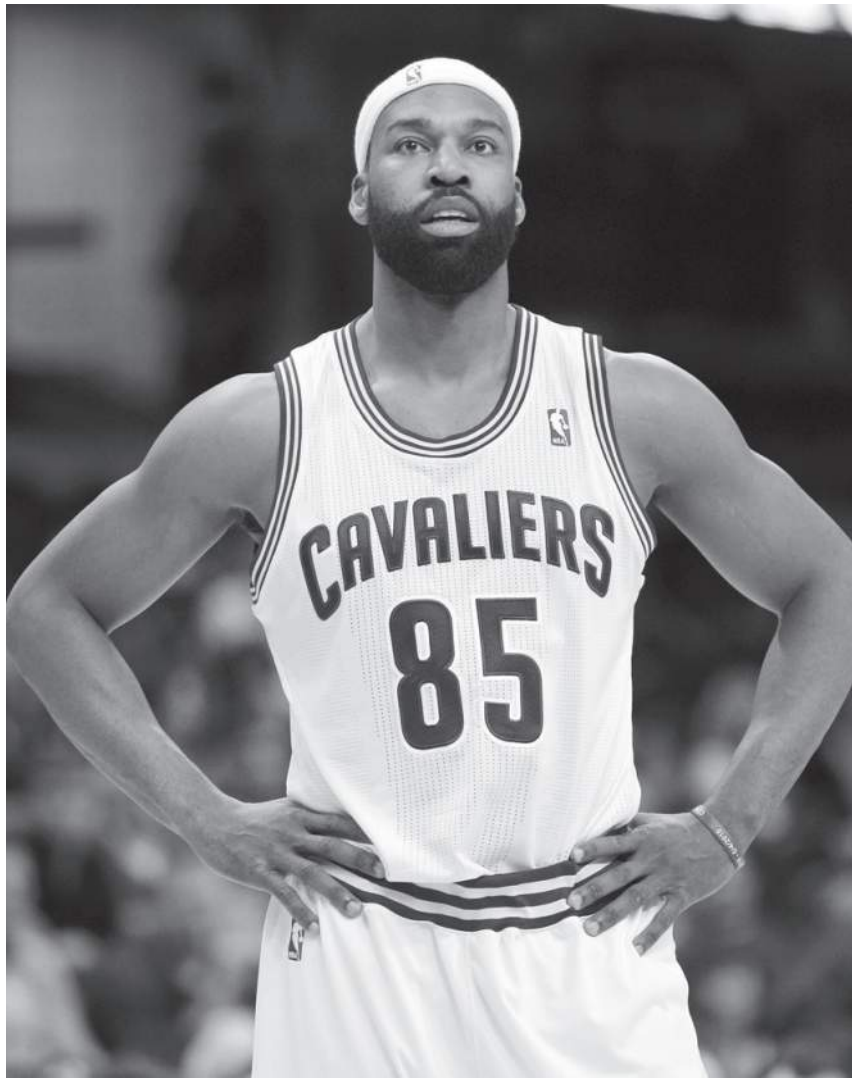


Veteran point guard Baron Davis has decided to sign with the New York Knicks, two sources close to the situation confirmed to SI.com.

Davis was released by the Cavaliers by way of the NBA's new amnesty clause and cleared the waiver wire on Friday. While the deal isn't complete, he is expected to sign a one-year deal worth \$2.5 million soon to join the likes of Carmelo Anthony, Amar'e Stoudemire and Tyson Chandler while helping fortify the point guard position for the Knicks.

New York—which only wanted a one-year deal in an attempt to preserve precious salary cap space for next summer—opted to use its \$2.5 million exception on Davis rather than sign him to a veteran's minimum deal worth \$1.4 million.

The Knicks also recently added veteran point guard Mike Bibby on a one-year, veteran's minimum deal, but wanted more depth at the position after using its amnesty clause on Chauncey Billups in order to land Chandler in free agency. Davis had narrowed his choices to the Knicks and Lakers in recent days, but ultimately decided to join New York, although it's not clear how soon he'll be on the floor as he is dealing with a back injury. His agent, Todd Ramasar, told multiple media outlets recently that his



In this March 6, 2011, file photo, Cleveland Cavaliers guard Baron Davis looks on during an NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Hornets in Cleveland.

client would be out "a minimum of eight to 10 weeks."

Cleveland cut Davis loose because of the arrival of point guard Kyrie Irving, the former Duke Star who was taken first overall in June. Yet while the Cavaliers' use of the amnesty means Davis' salary was taken off their books for salary cap and luxury tax purposes, they still have to pay him the combined \$28.6 million remaining on his deal that lasts through the 2012-13 season. Had Davis been taken off waivers by a team with salary cap space, that balance would have been offset by the negotiated salary of Davis' new team.

If Davis, 32, can get healthy in time for a playoff run and play in the sort of engaged fashion he did while with Golden State as recently as three years ago, a Knicks team that was already on the rise might be even better by landing the two-time All-Star. It's a big "if," though, as Davis' game fell off significantly in two seasons with the Clippers and he routinely battled injuries before being traded to Cleveland midway through 2010-11.

Davis—who has averaged 16.5 points and 7.3 assists in 12 seasons—will clearly need time to not only heal but to return to playing condition. He was largely inactive during the summer, hobbled by the nagging back problem and frequently seen in street clothes at the Drew League games in his hometown of Los Angeles watching his peers play.

Arguments set in Dodgers bankruptcy appeal by Fox



DOVER, Del. (AP)—A federal district court judge in Delaware has

scheduled a hearing next week in an appeal by Fox Sports of a federal bankruptcy judge's order allowing the Los Angeles Dodgers to sell the media rights to future games.

U.S. District Judge Leonard Stark told attorneys at the conclusion of a teleconference Friday that he will hear arguments

next Thursday on Fox's request for an emergency stay of the bankruptcy judge's order until a ruling on the appeal.

Stark said he would hear arguments on the merits of Fox's appeal on Jan. 12. The briefing schedule he set is similar to the timetable suggested by Fox. The judge rejected arguments by a Dodgers attorney that the appeal process was being rushed.

"We think that schedule is way too expedited," said Dodgers attorney Sid Levinson.

Stark said that, given the planned April 30 deadline for a sale of the Dodgers and the rights to games starting in 2014, he needs to make timely rulings both on the stay motion and on Fox's appeal itself.

The appeal involves a ruling by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Gross authorizing the Dodgers to begin the process of marketing future media rights as part of the team's plan to emerge from bankruptcy.

The Dodgers sought bankruptcy protection in June after baseball Commis-

sioner Bud Selig rejected a new TV deal with Fox that Dodgers owner Frank McCourt was counting on to keep the franchise solvent.

After threatening to seek bankruptcy court permission to sell the media rights without the approval of Major League Baseball, the Dodgers reached an agreement with MLB that calls for a sale of both the team and the media rights.

But Fox is challenging the proposed media rights sale process, saying it violates Fox's exclusive rights under its existing contract with the Dodgers. That contract gives Fox an exclusive 45-day period starting in October 2012 to negotiate a contract extension with the Dodgers.

Fox Sports attorney Catherine Steege told Stark that Gross had no authority to approve a contract that was unilaterally written by the Dodgers and deprives Fox of negotiating rights that it bargained and paid for. She noted that the plan approved by Gross allows the Dodgers to take any agreement reached with Fox and try to find a better deal with someone else.

"We're being forced into the position of an involuntary stalking horse," she said, using the term for an initial bid solicited by a bankrupt company as a starting point for seeking higher bids.

Levinson argued that the proposed sale process would not deprive Fox of any leverage during the exclusive negotiating period, which the Dodgers want to move up by about 10 months. Given that the value of media rights is increasing, Fox would pay more if it negotiates a contract extension next year rather than now, Levinson added.

The settlement between the Dodgers and MLB calls for the team and the media rights to be sold by April 30, which also is the deadline for McCourt to pay \$131 million to his ex-wife, Jamie, as part of their divorce settlement.

New MLB deal includes extra replay

NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball's new labor contract includes more video replay, the chance for a longer All-Star break and a small, but likely welcome perk for players: the chance to get a private room instead of a roommate during spring training.

The Associated Press obtained the document that includes several changes, many starting next year. Among them:

- allowing teams from the same division to meet in the playoffs before the league championship series.

- a ban on players getting tattoos with corporate logos.

- the possibility of players wearing microphones during games.

Players have already ratified the hundreds of pages contained in Major League Baseball's Memorandum of Understanding. Owners are scheduled to vote Thursday.

Also part of the deal: Any big leaguer who wants to change uniform numbers without switching teams better give eight months' notice unless he's willing to buy warehouses full of his overstocked jerseys.

MLB wants to expand replay to include fair-or-foul calls, "whether a fly ball or line drive was trapped" and fan

interference all around the ballpark. Umpires still must give their approval and it's uncertain whether the extra replay will be in place by opening day.

Video review began in August 2008, but only to look at potential home runs.

The All-Star break will be expanded to four days, rather than the traditional three-day gap. The five-year deal says starting in 2013 that MLB "shall have the right to elect to switch the All-Star game from Tuesday to Wednesday and the Home Run Derby from Monday to Tuesday." Sixty-nine of 82 All-Star games have been played on Tuesday, according to STATS LLC.

Gone, too, are the days of roommates, something that dates back decades, to the days players rode the rails to Florida. Now, all players on 40-man rosters are assured of single rooms during spring training. They've had that perk during the regular season since 1997.

And for players thinking about selling ads on their bodies, MLB has thought ahead. The agreement says "no player may have any visible markings or logos tattooed on his body" as part of the uniform regulations.

"Just trying to head something off at the pass," said Rob Manfred, baseball's executive vice president for labor relations.

The NFL has a rule against "unauthorized commercial identification," according to spokesman Greg Aiello, and the NBA has a rule banning corporate insignia, spokesman Mike Bass said. Baseball appears to be the first U.S. major pro league to specifically ban commercial tattoos.

Quick uniform number switches will be a thing of the past.

Players must tell the commissioner's office by July 31 of the preceding year if they want a new jersey. That is, unless "the player (or someone on his behalf) purchases the existing finished goods inventory of apparel containing the player's jersey number." As in, every replica jersey, jacket, T-shirt, mug and anything else with a number that's anywhere in stock.

The deal also bans players and team officials from asking official scorers to reconsider decisions—clubs must instead send video to MLB to appeal calls—and increases punishments for slow-moving hitters and pitchers, raising pace-of-game fines up to \$10,000 each for the sixth violation and beyond.

Irving impresses new fans in Cavs' scrimmage

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP)—Kyrie Irving made a strong impression on Cleveland fans during the Cavaliers' free scrimmage at Quicken Loans Arena on Sunday.

Irving received the loudest ovation during player introductions and the No. 1 overall draft pick from Duke was cheered throughout the scrimmage.

"It was a great feeling to be out there," he said. "When I pulled up into the parking garage, a lot of nerves were going. It was a lot of fun to finally play at the Q and be out there with my teammates."

Cleveland fans are counting on Irving to be the centerpiece in the Cavaliers' rebuilding project after the departure of LeBron James. Cleveland won 19 games last season.

Irving, whose Gold team defeated the Wine team 67-57 in the scrimmage that lasted three quarters, quickly provided a couple of highlights. Less than a minute into the game, he threw an alley-oop pass to Omri Casspi for a dunk. He then drove past Ramon Sessions and scored on a left-handed layup.

Irving added two more alley-oop passes that resulted in dunks and picked off a pass at midcourt and drove in for a dunk of his own. He finished with 14 points, nine assists, six rebounds and five turnovers in 31 minutes.

"I'm focused on getting better every day," Irving said. "I'm trying to fit into this team as best as I can. That's the most important thing right now."

Three of Irving's assists were on alley-oop passes, which brought the crowd to its feet.

"I've been doing those lob passes ever since I can remember, even in the eighth grade when no one could dunk," he said. "I've been practicing that my whole life. I don't think there's an art to it. It's a basketball play."

Cleveland coach Byron Scott hasn't committed to Irving as his starting point guard in the season opener against Toronto on Dec. 26. Irving came off the bench in Friday's preseason opener against Detroit and scored 21 points in 27 minutes.

The door for Irving to start opened last week when the Cavaliers waived Baron Davis under the NBA's new amnesty rule. The Cavaliers host the Pistons in the final preseason game Tuesday. Scott has said he won't make his decision until the opener, but Irving is expected to start.

Tristan Thompson, the No. 4 pick in the draft, scored 12 points and had six rebounds in 26 minutes.

Pacquiao offers more compromise to fight Mayweather



Don't let anyone tell you that Manny Pacquiao doesn't want to face Floyd Mayweather Jr.

For weeks now a potential showdown between Pacquiao and Mayweather has appeared more imminent than it had at any point over the last two years. Between the Filipino champion's controversial -- and in some people's eyes questionable -- victory over Juan Manuel Marquez, and Mayweather's equally suspect sucker punch win over Victor Ortiz, it felt like this was the ideal time for these guys to reaffirm their legitimacy.

Sensing the general tenor of the public, both men opted to make gestures that indicated



Pacquiao

they were interested in a prospective dream match.

Mayweather, for his part, came out on the week that Pacquiao was due to fight Marquez and presented an unofficial offer to his arch rival -- a fight in

May 2012. Then, following the events of November 12, Pacquiao realized that the time had come for him to prove that he was the world's top pound-for-pound fighter. He sent a number of his representatives to speak

with Mayweather's people and, as recently as two weeks ago, told the media that an agreement was "80 to 90 percent sure to take place on May 5 next year and only a few more details are being ironed out before contracts are finalized."

Since then, both camps have been quiet about the progress being made. The only real person to speak out has been Top Rank boss Bob Arum, whose disdain for Mayweather makes him far more of a hindrance than asset to this whole process. Predictably, his contributions were entirely useless and didn't shed any light on where the top two pound-for-pounders in the world stood when it came to fighting one another.

Well, on Saturday, finally, there was some movement.

While speaking to reporters from his home in General Santos City, Pacquiao made it clear that fighting the undefeated Mayweather was in fact important to him. That, regardless of whether or not Mayweather really wants to fight him, he'd make sure that his American rival would be left with no excuses this time around.

Pacquiao is willing to take the smaller piece of the pie as long as the dream fight takes place.

Pacquiao's pronouncement that he is giving Mayweather the lion's share of the pot only puts credence that he is moving heaven and earth to make it happen.

The subject of random blood testing is apparently a non-issue now since Arum had mentioned many times in the past month or so that Pacquiao has agreed to

Mayweather's demands. This latest gesture by the Filipino champion is absolutely huge. It goes a long ways in proving that he isn't concerned with wasting his time on inconsequential, meaningless bouts that won't do anything for his legacy anymore. Rather, Pacquiao's sole focus has been shifted to giving the public what they've longed for since 2009 -- a match between the two biggest and brightest stars the sport has to offer.

Pacquiao has officially done his part. He's sought out Mayweather and made some impressive concessions. Now, so long as Arum doesn't do anything to mess this progress up, Mayweather should have no excuse but to quickly jump up and agree to fight Pacquiao.

INTER

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thrown out of the game for getting a red card in the 60th minute. The violation was committed when Thoensaket went for a high kick against an Inter Godfather's Sanjay Dangol, who was going for a

header. Thoensaket went on to hit the face of the Inter Godfather's striker.

Seven minutes after Wild Bill's biggest offensive threat left the game, Otsuka logged his second goal, recovering the ball off Chris Nelson's miss header. Then two minutes before the finals ended, Holley broke into the scoreboard

to complete Inter Godfather's flawless season and hand Wild Bill's its lone loss.

Joining Holley, Otsuka, and Loken on the champion squad are goalie Evan Hunsberger, Shunji Nagayasu, Peter Houk, Arkie Reusora, Bruce Berline, David, Jose, and Juan Duenas, Dale Roberts, Suguru Takahashi, Jacon Van Dam, and

Chris Nelson.

Inter Godfather's received a championship trophy at the end of the title match with NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas presenting the award in a brief ceremony.

Meanwhile, MP United A won the consolation game against Paire FC, 4-3.

Jio Sung and Dae Min Jeon

converted two goals each for MP United A, which scored all its goal in the second half to recover from a 0-1 deficit in the first half.

William Dun nailed one of the three goals for Paire FC, lighting up the scoreboard in the 28th minute for their 1-0 lead. Risty Vergara made it a 2-0 advantage when he found the back

of the net in the 71st minute.

Seven minutes later, Jeon put MP United A in the scoreboard, while Sung recorded his first goal to force a tie. Sung hit another goal to give MP United A the upper hand, but Zhi Peng Lin quickly answered for another stalemate. Three minutes after the deadlock, Jeon scored the winning goal.

FAMILIAR

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Reynaldo Joson (1:09:05), Brad Ruszala (1:11:18), Dave Guerrero (1:11:50), Frank Camacho (1:18:24), Jason Tarkong (1:18:30), Jay Jones (1:20:23), Rommel Tiosejo (1:20:25), Jerome Diyco (1:24:08), Joel Tudela (1:30:25), Jose Quan (1:31:08), Joseph Torres (1:31:10), Patrick Demapan (1:32:22), and Bruce Bateman

(1:46:22).

In the MTB short, which had bikers negotiate the same course, but did not turn at the Autobahn trail, Santa Claus Lane, and the Banzai Trail, Arnel Cruz crossed to the finish line first at the 43:22 mark. Bernard Laborce (47:38) and Rosalio Quintos (48:34) completed the Top 3.

In the women's division, Mamiko Oshima-Berger timed in at 1:13:40 to beat Esther Ada (1:16:16) and Sheryl Camacho

(1:17:31)

In the women's road bike race that also started and ended at Paupau with bikers pedaling up at Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai, Carey submitted 57:18 to prevail against Rima Yamagishi (1:24:46) and Norma Ada (1:31:24).

In the men's division, Ariel Garcia duplicated Carey's time, less than a minute ahead of runner-up Aldin Sta. Ana (58:10). Rounding out the Top 3 was Antonee Aguilar (1:00:11).

Meanwhile, race organizer Susan Marchitti would like to thank bikers, volunteers, and sponsors for making the inaugural event possible.

"We were pleased with the huge turnout. On behalf of *Beach Road Magazine* and the NMICF, I would like to thank you all for coming out to our first Jungle Bell MTB Bike and Road Race. You all made it a success. I would especially like to thank Jim, Heather, Lewie, Mike, Dave, and Vince

and all of the other volunteers who put everything together. Everyone did a great job," Marchitti said.

The organizer also recognized the following sponsors of the race that drew more than 60 bikers: NTT Docomo Pacific, Subway, Brabu Pharmacy, The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, PHI Pharmacy, Hollywood Theaters, Mega-

byte, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Coca-Cola, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Grand Hotel, Marianas Visitors Authority, Triple J Wholesale, Gold's Gym, Taro Sue, Tropical Blend Spa, Shell, Delta Management Co., 360 Restaurant, Scoops, National Office Supply, Herman's Modern Bakery, Saipan Sea Ventures, MARPAC, R & M Printers, and Lollipops.

DECEMBER

From Page 28

time he won was during the January roll-offs.

Cal clinched her fourth monthly award after reigning in the December Queen of the Lanes event. She also prevailed in the February, June, and August roll-offs, making her the female kegler with the most monthly victories this

season, one win ahead of Gloria Omechelang (March, July, and October).

Cal bowled only last Sunday and her four-game total of 716 pinfalls was enough to surpass the 712 pinfalls. Omechelang recorded last Saturday. Cal posted 181 and 177 pinfalls in the first two games and 180 and 178 in the last two for an average of 179 pinfalls. Omechelang had 170, 202, 148, and 191

for an average of 178 and came back for the Sunday roll-off, but came out flat, tallying only 553 pinfalls. Bowlers are allowed to join both days of the roll-offs, but only the higher score is counted.

Rounding out the Top 3 was Tess Fabie, who also bowled on both days and her Day 2 total of 682 pinfalls defeated the 671 of Yho Villavicencio.

In the Fiji Water Prince of

the Lane, Marion McKenzie also ended the season with a victory after collecting 646 pinfalls last Sunday.

McKenzie, who won from May to July and October and lost in August, September, and November, defeated rival M.J. Aldan and November winner John Taisacan. Aldan and Taisacan logged 613 and 600 pinfalls, respectively. Completing the list was Ryan Batac, who earned 528 pinfalls.

BLUE HAUS

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drew contributions from seven different players in the opening canto, while Wushin was held to only four field goals as it had only three players making it to the scoreboard.

Blue Haus picked up where it left off in the second frame, nailing 16 markers, while Wushin still failed to get its rhythm, as it was held to eight points. Again, Blue Haus' balance offense was too much for Wushin, allowing the former to double the latter's output by halftime, 34-17.

Brandon Talanía, who was held to one triple in each of the first two quarters, had a breakout game in the third period, firing 11 points to maintain Blue Haus' double-digit spread, 54-41.

After an anemic first half, Wushin finally broke into double figures in scoring in the third canto with its 24 markers, with 12 of them coming from Pete Lizama. However, Wushin failed to neutralize Talanía in the third to face a 13-point deficit, with one quarter to go.

Wushin had his best offensive game in the fourth period when it exploded for 31 markers and Lizama continued to hit his

marks. However, Marlon Sison and Jun Abedes hit rally halting baskets in the fourth canto to foil Wushin's comeback bid.

Talanía top-scored for Blue Haus with 20 points, while Abedes chipped in 17. Edwin Camacho and Marlon Sison contributed 11 and 10 markers, respectively. Only Lizama and Henry de Jesus tallied double digits for Wushin with 28 and 11, respectively. Wushin gunner Jun Tabora was limited to nine markers and was scoreless in the final canto.

The Wushin-Blue Haus tiff was the only game played last Sunday, as FGC (0-6) had only four players and forfeited

its game against Sherwin Williams (3-2).

Only one match was played last Friday, too, with MDX keeping its perfect record after routing Pacific Postal Plus, 68-37. SCS won via forfeit over San Roque in the first game.

Blue Haus 80 -- Talanía 20, Abedes 17, E. Camacho 11, Sison 10, B. Camacho 8, Cruz 6, Fernandez 4, Olivos 3, Lazone 1.

Wushin Express 72 -- Lizama 28, De Jesus 11, Tabora 9, Tibayan 9, Guiab 8, Patawaran 4, O. Ebuen 3.

Scoring by quarters: 18-9, 34-17, 54-41, 80-72.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
NFL STANDINGS									
AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East									
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA			
y-New England	11	3	0	.786	437	297			
N.Y. Jets	8	6	0	.571	346	315			
Miami	5	9	0	.357	286	269			
Buffalo	5	9	0	.357	311	371			
South									
y-Houston	10	4	0	.714	343	236			
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	279	278			
Jacksonville	4	10	0	.286	207	293			
Indianapolis	1	13	0	.071	211	395			
North									
x-Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198			
x-Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	334	236			
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	305	283			
Cleveland	4	10	0	.286	195	274			
West									
Denver	8	6	0	.571	292	343			
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	317	382			
San Diego	7	7	0	.500	358	313			
Kansas City	6	8	0	.429	192	319			
NATIONAL CONFERENCE									
East									
Dallas	8	6	0	.571	348	296			
N.Y. Giants	7	7	0	.500	334	372			
Philadelphia	6	8	0	.429	342	311			
Washington	5	9	0	.357	252	300			
South									
x-New Orleans	11	3	0	.786	457	306			
Atlanta	9	5	0	.643	341	281			
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	341	368			
Tampa Bay	4	10	0	.286	247	401			
North									
y-Green Bay	13	1	0	.929	480	297			
Detroit	9	5	0	.643	395	332			
Chicago	7	7	0	.500	315	293			
Minnesota	2	12	0	.143	294	406			
West									
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182			
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	284	273			
Arizona	7	7	0	.500	273	305			
St. Louis	2	12	0	.143	166	346			
x-clinched playoff spot									
y-clinched division									
Yesterday's Games									
New Orleans 42, Minnesota 20									
Seattle 38, Chicago 14									
Cincinnati 20, St. Louis 13									
Carolina 28, Houston 13									
Kansas City 19, Green Bay 14									
Indianapolis 27, Tennessee 13									
Miami 30, Buffalo 23									
Washington 23, N.Y. Giants 10									
Detroit 28, Oakland 27									
New England 41, Denver 23									
Arizona 20, Cleveland 17, OT									
Philadelphia 45, N.Y. Jets 19									
San Diego 34, Baltimore 14									
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS									
LOCAL SCORES									
DLX STANDINGS									
MDX	7	0							
Blue Haus	5	1							
SCS	4	1							
Wushin Express	4	2							
Sherwin Williams	3	2							
8th Division	2	5							
Saipan Boys	1	5							
Pacific Postal	0	5							
FGC	0	6							

2011 Northern Marianas Athletics Christmas Island Relay

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Participants of Saturday's 2011 Northern Marianas Athletics Christmas Island Relay pose for a group photo at the Last Command Post.



Members of the Dark Horse complete the race.



Our Team runners cross the finish line together.



I Love My Dentist runners near the finish line.



Santa's Slaves celebrate at the finish line.



Runners sprint to the finish line.



Team Track's Tom Linden, left, and Eric Bickel, near the finish at the Last Command Post and are ahead of two F-Faijuk runners.



Tamio Nishido, left, and Joshua Berger smile after completing the race.



Chang Wan Jang races from San Antonio to Marpi in barefoot.



F-Faijuk's Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, left, and his teammate complete the 13.7-mile race.



Davis decides to sign with Knicks

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Chiefs end Packers' perfect season



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Inter Godfather's rules FA Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Inter Godfather's outgunned Wild Bill's, 4-1, to bag the championship in the 2011 NMI-FA Men's FA Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Masatoshi Otsuka scored twin goals for Inter Godfather's, while Peter Loken and Matthew Holley contributed one each to give the team a perfect record this season and win the battle of undefeated teams. Wild Bill's and Inter Godfather's both ruled their respective divisions in the fall league elimination game and then went undefeated in two games in the playoffs to set up their championship duel.

Then Wild Bill's winning run ended last Sunday, as it drew only one goal from Jeeraphong Thoensaket, who was later ejected from the match after getting a red card in the second half.

Thoensaket got things go-

ing early for Wild Bill's when he scored the first goal in the highly physical match in the 8th minute. Wild Bill's hung on to the driver's seat for 10 minutes before Otsuka hit the equalizer and the first half went on to end in a deadlock.

With the bragging rights and championship on the line, both teams continued to play tough defense and shut each other out in the first few minutes of the second half. Then in the 51st minute, Loken scored to break the tie.

Down by only one with still a lot of time left, Wild Bill's comeback bid suffered a big blow when Thoensaket was

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Inter Godfather's Matthew Holley kicks the ball during their title game against Wild Bill's in the 2011 NMIFA Men's FA Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Familiar winners in *BRM* bike race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Perennial winners in local cycling events emerged as the top finishers in the inaugural *Beach Road Magazine* Jungle Bell MTB Bike and Road Race held last Sunday.

Leading the list were Butch Sublemente and Micko Carey, who prevailed in the MTB and road long course divisions, respectively. Sublemente completed the MTB long course race that started and ended at Paupau Beach and brought bikers to Kimikaze trail, Grotto Road, Au-



NMIFC's Lewie Tenorio, left, and Jim Arenovski, right, join the Top 3 finishers in the MTB long course Butch Sublemente, Bob Ferrer, and Brian Morris, for a group photo during the awards ceremony for the *Beach Road Magazine* Jungle Bell MTB Bike and Road Race last Sunday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

tobahn trail, Santa Claus Lane, and Banzai Trail in 49 minutes and 24 seconds. He made it to the finish line about a minute and a half ahead of runner-up Bob Ferrer (50:57) and two minutes faster than third placer Brian Morris (51:22).

Twenty other bikers joined the MTB long course. They were and their times in parenthesis Tyce Mister (52:49), Mark Isip (52:52), Ricky Melchor (54:24), Russ Quinn (55:44), John Arceo (1:00:48), Enrique Suba (1:00:52), Rex Kosack (1:02:58), Jay Diyco (1:05:21), Sean Frink (1:06:38), Arvin Bacani (1:06:46),

See FAMILIAR on Page 26

December crowns go to Zapanta, Cal

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Raymond Zapanta and Ron Cal capped Saipan Bowling Association's 2010-2011 season on a winning note

after prevailing in the December roll-offs held over at the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Zapanta knocked down 855 in four games during Day 1 of the roll-offs last Saturday to take the last SBA/Budweiser King of the Lanes monthly

plum. After a slow start (163 pinfalls), Zapanta posted 200 plus pinfalls in the last three games (226, 220, and 246) for a 33-pinfal lead over Day 1 second-ranked Alex Castro

(822). Castro went on to finish in third place after Day 2 of the competition, as Robert Talavera bowled last Sunday and managed to take the No. 2 spot with his four-game total of 827 pinfalls. Twelve other male bowlers joined the King of the Lanes tournament.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ron Cal, left, and Raymond Zapanta smile after receiving their prize for winning the December roll-offs last weekend.

The December win was only Zapanta's second monthly plum and it took a while before he topped the competition anew as the last

See DECEMBER on Page 26

Blue Haus dislodges Wushin Express

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Blue Haus bumped off Wushin Express at the No. 2 spot in the team standings of the 2011 DLX Basketball Invitational Friendship League after an 80-72 vic-

tory in their game last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Blue Haus now has a 5-1 record, moving up to solo second place, while Wushin dropped to a 4-2 card for fourth spot in the nine-team field. MDX leads the league with a 7-0 record, while SCS Heavy Equipment Rental is ranked third with its 4-1 mark.

An 18-9 scoring in the first period was all Blue Haus need-

ed to dominate Wushin and notch its fifth win. Blue Haus got off to a good start when it

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Blue Haus' Badong Camacho, seen here dribbling during their game against San Roque, scored eight points in their 80-72 win over Wushin Express in the DLX caging last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

